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Baltics Cautious About Military Cooperation With Russia

WS3011121994 Tallinn BNS in English 1805 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Nov 29, BNS—In a further sign that the Baltics have adopted an attitude of cautiousness toward possible military cooperation with Russia, the Baltic defense force leaders at a press conference after a meeting in Tallinn mentioned no definite ways how the three nations could work closely with the huge eastern neighbor.

The Estonian Commander in Chief, Aleksander Einseln, told reporters on Tuesday there was "no particular military cooperation" going on between the Baltics and Russia at the moment. He said cooperation on military issues could be talked about some time in the future.

His Latvian counterpart, Colonel Juris Dalbinsh, said extensive military cooperation between Latvia and Russia was not an issue that could be discussed in the immediate future. "We can solve certain problems together, but not cooperate on large scale," the Latvian army commander said.

Colonel Antanas Jurgaitis, head of the operative planning department of the Lithuanian Armed Forces central staff, was short-spoken, saying Lithuania and Russia were not cooperating in the field of the military.

The issue of possible military cooperation between Estonia and Russia came up in April, when Commander in Chief Major General Aleksander Einseln made an official visit to Moscow. The Estonian army chief met several Russian top military and paid a visit to the Kantermirov division stationed near Moscow.

Einseln said in April Estonian officers could be trained at Russian military academies. "This would be of advantage to our officers, the way that training in other countries is," he told BNS then.

The Estonian commander in chief didn't rule out that the country could buy weapons and military equipment from Russia. He said Estonia was interested in obtaining Russian-made anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons. "We want to have high-quality weapons at a low price. If we can get them from Russia we will buy weapons from there," the general told reporters in Moscow.

Army Leaders Meet To Discuss Cooperation Issues

LD3011123894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CIS army leaders are meeting in Moscow Wednesday [30 November] to discuss ways of setting up joint anti-aircraft defense in the framework of the CIS Collective Security Treaty. In addition, they will also discuss mobilization of an allied CIS force in the event of any possible aggression and other military cooperation issues.

Taking part in this scientific-practical conference are defense ministers, top CIS military officials, and representatives of the Headquarters for Coordination of Military Cooperation within CIS.

As an Interfax correspondent reports, at the start of the session Uzbekistan's Defense Minister Rustam Akhmedov criticized the low level of representation found in the Russian military delegation at the conference. He noted that although Russia intends to participate in joint CIS anti-aircraft defense, its leadership has been out of contact with CIS army commanders on the issue.

Akhmedov also suggested that because of the absence of Russia's military command, debates on a number of important issues should be cancelled.

The Russian delegation at the conference is led by General Yevgeniy Smirnov, Moscow's envoy at the Headquarters for Coordination of Military Cooperation within CIS.

The conference's sponsors reported to Interfax that initially Russian Deputy Defense Minister Boris Gromov was expected to take part. CIS Coordination Headquarters explain Gromov's absence by his possible dismissal from the office of deputy defense chief. According to their information, a decree from President Boris Yeltsin could appear within the next few days providing for a 30 percent cut in the armed forces central command. It is assumed that apart from Gromov, two other Deputy Defense Ministers, Vladimir Toporov and Valeriy Mironov, will also go since their offices will be abolished.

The CIS Coordination Headquarters also doubts that Gromov will attend a session of the CIS Defense Ministers Council in Moscow Thursday.

Defense Ministers To Discuss Peace Operation

LD3011211294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1944 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Council of the CIS Defense Ministers is to discuss on Thursday [1 December] ways of ensuring the material, technical and financial support for the peacekeeping operations in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. The headquarters for coordinating military cooperation told Interfax that in accordance with the preliminary agreements, Russia will bear 50 percent of the related expenses, Ukraine—14 percent and Belarus, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan—5 percent each. Each of the remaining CIS countries will be asked to assume 3 percent of the related expenses.

The defense ministers will also discuss the repair of armaments and military equipment at the CIS defense enterprises. The possibility of broadening the powers of the commander of the peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, and the Council of Defense Ministers' work for 1995 will also be on the agenda.

Kozyrev: Russia May Cease Partnership With Expanding NATO

LD3011210494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1944 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia may give up the program of partnership with NATO if that bloc expands, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said.

Answering an Interfax question before he flew to Paris Wednesday [30 November] Kozyrev emphasized that he might forego the presentation of the Russia-NATO partnership program if the NATO Council adopted "a bloc expansion calendar."

In his words, "hasty expansion of NATO and scheduling this process will create a new situation. This will be an obvious departure from the partnership we agreed on."

Kozyrev expressed the hope, however, that this would not happen. He noted that numerous West European and other countries opposed decisions which could make cooperation and partnership in Europe more difficult."

He will attend a West European Council's meeting In Paris. He plans to go on to Brussels Thursday afternoon to submit the Russia- NATO partnership program to the North Atlantic Cooperation Council meeting.

On December 2 Kozyrev will attend a meeting of the contact group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and have a tete-a-tete meting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

He said that Russia wanted its partnership with NATO to expand and become more tangible. He said: "We are prepared to suggest numerous events in the framework of the Russia-NATO partnership and of the Partnership for Peace program so that we could know each other better and learn to work and live together."

Afanasyevskiy on NATO Expansion

LD3011181394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 30 Nov 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Afanasyevskiy told an Interfax correspondent that the program for Russia-NATO partnership was practically prepared "though some details have yet to be coordinated." The Russian foreign minister is expected to introduce the program in Brussels where the North Atlantic Cooperation Council will meet on December 2.

Afanasyevskiy made it clear that the Russia-NATO program on partnership could be influenced by decisions of the NATO Council at the level of the foreign ministers. He voiced hope that NATO would not approve the "schedule for enlarging NATO on which some pro-Atlantic circles have insisted."

Afanasyevskiy said he believed that enlargement of NATO would be a counterproductive move at the present moment and could seriously complicate work of the CSCE summit in Budapest.

Afanasyevskiy said the reforms in NATO declared four years ago were slow. "Even the Russian Armed Forces adapt themselves to the new reality more quickly though with greater difficulties," he added.

Commenting on cooperation between Russia and NATO, Afanasyevskiy said it must be equal. "We are in favor of transparency and predictability as far as actions of every party are concerned," he added.

He said neither Russia nor NATO were ready for granting to each other the right to veto their actions. He said it was not the main problem now. "Our partnership must not involve either vetoes or surprises. The Russia-NATO program aims directly at this and at bringing our relations to a quite new level."

Commenting on the coming CSCE summit in Budapest, Afanasyevskiy said it could be "a turning point for the new post-confrontation Europe." "All the CSCE member-states realize the necessity for building a unified Europe. Discord concerns only the ways for doing this. In Budapest we will synchronize our watches and decide where Europe should go," he said.

Afanasyevskiy said the direction of movement of Europe would be reflected in the political declaration which the CSCE summit was expected to approve. The declaration is called To New Cooperation in the New Epoch.

He also said the CSCE summit was likely to discuss efficiency of the organization. "The UN recognized the CSCE as a regional organization. However, the CSCE does not yet belong even to this kind of organizations as its decisions are of political-diplomatic character and are not juridically obligatory."

Afanasyevskiy said what was good for the period of bloc confrontation was not normal now when Europe had to face such "new challenges as aggressive nationalism, violation of human rights and rights of ethnic minorities, etc." He said the CSCE needed new mechanisms.

At the same time, he stressed that Russia was not ready for rejecting the principle of consensus for adopting decisions as some Western countries proposed. He said Russia believed that the principle must be preserved until a new basis of the CSCE and new systems of European security were created.

Afanasyevskiy said he believed that the CSCE summit would also focus on peacekeeping operations. He said the issue was of great importance for Russia as the majority of conflicts in Europe took place on the ex-USSR territory.

He said Russia could not accept the position of those Western countries which would like to place its peacekeeping and mediatory activities under some control. He said control could not be even discussed as nobody besides Russia either sent peacekeepers to the conflict zones or contributed to financing the peacekeeping operations.

Afanasyevskiy said the CSCE summit was likely to decide on beginning the first CSCE peacekeeping operation which could take place in Nagorno-Karabakh. He said Russia did not oppose deployment of multi-national forces in Nagorno-Karabakh. "We believe, however, that before beginning the operation it is necessary to define what kind of forces these will be, peacekeeping or peacemaking ones, and under which sign, the CIS, the CSCE or the UN, they will act," he added.

Afanasyevskiy said Russia paid must attention to this as in case of some complications all reproaches would be addressed to Russia. "Victory has many fathers while defeat is always an orphan," he repeated.

Afanasyevskiy highly appraised of the decision on enlarging the confidence measures exceeding the Helsinki zone and extending them to the U.S., Canada and the World Ocean which the CSCE summit would fix. He said it was a great achievement that information would be exchanged on not only troops stationed on national territories but also on troops outside these limits.

Commenting on negative moments in performance of the CSCE, Afanasyevskiy said the CSCE bureaucracy sometimes seemed to work for itself. "There is a certain risk that the CSCE could become a factory producing statements incapable of really influencing the situation," he warned.

Commentary Views Russia's Relationship With NATO

LD3011140794 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1210 GMT 30 Nov 94

[Commentary by Anatoliy Potapov on Russia's relationship with NATO]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] And now Anatoliy Potapov looks into the relationship between Russia and NATO.

And so the program for interaction between Russia and NATO is almost ready. Moscow has empowered its ambassador to Belgium, Vitaliy Churkin, to harmonize with NATO final details in the program. What in general terms does the program of cooperation between Russia and NATO represent?

The program consists of two parts. The first part relates to Russia's proposals on cooperation with NATO within the Partnership for Peace concept. It should be recalled that NATO's basic document in the above-mentioned partnership refers only vaguely to cooperation, and each state participating in the program is allotted its own concrete proposals. Russia was offered in the main military cooperation with NATO. That kind of cooperation concerns the holding of joint military exercises, exchange of military delegations, and Russian military officers spending a probation period with NATO. In a word, there is a lot of possibilities for military cooperation.

All the same, in the opinion of Anatoliy Potapov, Russia's proposal represents the second part [sentence as heard]. It goes beyond the Partnership for Peace program. It is precisely this wide section that takes into account Russia's specifics—its size, influence, and authority on the international scene and, perhaps most of all, its nuclear might. Russia's demand for certain conditions in its partnership with NATO has been necessitated by all these Russian-specific features. Wisely, the leadership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has accepted Russia's demand.

The above-mentioned section envisages that selfsame deepening of the dialogue with NATO upon which Russia has insisted. The point is about regular consultation, obligatory mutual information, which amounts to basic equal cooperation. If this happens, no-one can resort to any action touching on the European security without first reconciling with the other side or not informing the other partner prior to such an act [sentence as heard]. Cooperation on such a real issue like the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, settlement of regional problems, and peacemaking or [peace]keeping operations are also spelled out in the second section.

Thus these two sections constitute the individual program of the joint actions between Russia and NATO. If all the details in these sections are successfully reconciled before 2 December, it could be signed on the day of the arrival in Brussels of the Russian foreign minister, Andrey Kozyrev.

However, this has not been quite realized. Really next Friday has been literally taken up by a rash of political meetings in Brussels, including those by the Russian minister. However, Anatoliy Potapov thinks that this is not the only problem. Moscow will first of all do a serious analysis of NATO's decision on a possible expansion of the alliance by the admission of East European countries that is expected to be taken by the organization's council on 1 December.

For NATO's movement toward the East immediately close to Russia's borders may, in Moscow's view and in the opinion of some Western politicians, lead to the creation of new barriers on the European continent and in the final analysis to a new division of Europe.

Canada Opposed To Excluding Russia From NATO

LD3011195394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1918 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vladimir Rogachev and Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 30 TASS—Canada is opposing the formation of any "demarcation lines" in Europe which would exclude Russia from the integration process, Andre Ouellet, Canadian foreign minister, stated explaining his country's stand on the enlargement of NATO. He spoke at a news conference here today devoted to the results of his three-day official visit to Russia.

On the eve of the session of the NATO Council opening in Brussels on Thursday which is expected to discuss the prospects for admitting East European countries into the North Atlantic Alliance, the head of the Canadian Foreign Office noted that Ottawa stood for the "consolidation of democratic reforms" on the continent and the creation of "more stable Europe".

Andre Ouellet informed that in the course of his meetings with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev he stated that the Canadian side understood Russia's position on these problems.

He said the Canadian leaders were seeking to secure peace and stability in Europe, in all its parts, and develop good relations between NATO and Russia as effectively and rapidly as possible.

The top Canadian diplomat pointed out that his country understood and would accept in particular Russia's desire to establish special relations with NATO.

Yeltsin Meets With Canadian Foreign Minister

LD3011141794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1304 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 30 Nov (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin met with Canadian Foreign Minister Andre Quellet in the Kremlin today. They discussed various issues of bilateral relations and future cooperation within the G-7 framework, the presidential press service reported.

Change in U.S.' Bosnian Stance Noted

LD3011174194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 30 Nov 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow has the impression that important shifts toward rapprochement with the stand taken by the European members of the Contact Group are in evidence in Washington's attitude to Bosnia, a senior member of Russia's Foreign Ministry told Interfax's correspondent on Wednesday [30 November].

According to him, the latest statements by U.S. administration officials indicate that Washington is beginning to favor politico-diplomatic solutions to the conflict in Bosnia. As the diplomat said, now there is every reason to expect "an interesting turn" at the conference to be held by the Contact Group in Brussels on December 2 on the level of foreign ministers.

It's common knowledge that the Contact Group includes the representatives of Russia, the USA, France, Britain, and Germany.

According to the high-ranking Foreign Ministry official, to ensure success for the ministerial-level conference it is necessary to "avoid any actions capable of disrupting the process of peaceful settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is already hanging by a thread." "We urge our Contract Group partners and the parties involved in the conflict to refrain, at least till the conference ends, from any military methods or belligerent declarations. It seems that such an understanding has been reached among "the five", the diplomat noted.

Moscow, he said, finds it necessary to "nudge Bosnia's warring sides toward signing an agreement on ceasing fire for at least six months."

"There can be no 100% guarantee that the conference in Brussels will be productive," the source conceded. According to him, under the circumstances it's extremely important that the Bosnian Serbs stop their attempts to capture the Muslim enclave of Bihac, and the Muslims refrain from resuming military actions. "In this case much depends on the behavior of field commanders. And, as many years of experience in Bosnia have shown, anything can be expected from them," the diplomat stressed.

He preferred to refrain from commenting on the latest initiative of the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who called for convening an international conference on Bosnia. "So far we have received no official proposals on this score from the Americans through official channels," he explained.

Kozyrev Supports 'Comprehensive' Bosnian Cease-Fire Accord

LD3011210594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2012 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has spoken in support of concluding a comprehensive agreement on a ceasefire in Bosnia-Herzegovina under the U.N. auspices.

In answer to an Interfax question before his departure for Paris and Brussels Wednesday [30 November], he pointed out that such an agreement must be concluded "for at least four-six months."

According to Kozyrev, "this time should be used to encourage those sides which support peace, in the first place Belgrade, and therefore isolate forces of war and force the Bosnian Serbs to recognize the peace plan of the contact group."

Kozyrev emphasized that the Bosnian Serbs must be guaranteed the right to form a confederation with Yugoslavia since a similar right for confederation with Croatia is recognized as belonging to the Moslem and Croatian sides.

After the Bosnian Serbs agreed to the Contact Group's map, they must be given a chance to hold talks on an "additional exchange." "If they (Bosnian sides—IF note) achieve any changes to the map by mutual consent, then, naturally, who knows better than themselves what kind of map suits them best. However, the Contact Group's plan must be passed beforehand," he added.

Speaking on the future session of the foreign ministers of the Contact Group's states, Kozyrev said he would like this meeting to become a "breakthrough, above all in the return to the peace settlement plan agreed on in Geneva."

Kozyrev declined to comment on the initiative by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to convoke an international conference on the Bosnian settlement. "Unfortunately, I have been insufficiently informed of Warren Christopher's new initiative. I am looking forward to meet him to find out the details of this and his other initiatives," he continued. As has already been reported, Kozyrev plans to meet Christopher behind closed doors in Brussels.

Kozyrev welcomed the recent positive changes in Washington's stand as it "made a stronger accent on political ways to solve the Bosnian issue."

According to Kozyrev, this creates "a better basis for involving the U.S. in the positive activities of the December 2 meeting of contact group foreign ministers in Brussels."

Kozyrev Leaves for WEU Parliamentary Session

LD3011172894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1701 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 30 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left for the French capital on Wednesday [30 November] to address a session of the parliamentary assembly of the West-European Union.

Iranian Foreign Minister Denies Iran Assisting Chechnya

LD3011173794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 30 Nov 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran has never helped Chechnya, nor will it give it "any assistance", Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has declared in an interview with Russian journalists in Tehran.

Replying a question from Interfax, he noted that the Chechen problem is "an internal affair of Russia, and the policy of Tehran is based on non-interference in the affairs of other countries."

"Even if aid Chechnya, we will do so only through international organizations such as the Red Cross," Velayati stressed.

In a private conversation with an IF correspondent, a senior Iranian government official noted that "it is necessary for Russia to clearly define its policy in Chechnya and act more resolutely in case of necessity. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Meanwhile, Russian diplomats in Tehran have noted a step-up in informal contacts between representatives of Chechnya and Dagestan (a Caucasus republic within Russia) with Iran. According to them, "representatives of the Caucasus republics often pay political and business visits" to Iran, "however, the embassy does not know anything about the purpose" of their trips.

Possible Foreign Asylum for Chechnya's Dudayev Rumored

MM0112103394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Konstantin Eggert under general headline "Chechen Conundrum": "Muslim States As Yet Not Even Thinking About Having Dzhokhar Dudayev As Their Guest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dzhokhar Dudayev is a political refugee! This scenario may seem unlikely, but rumors about the Russian leadership hoping to persuade one of the Muslim states to grant asylum to the Chechen president have surfaced in Moscow.

Of course, what they may be referring to are preliminary unofficial contacts insofar as Mr. Dudayev has not yet expressed a desire to quit his post and homeland. If we assume that the Kremlin is counting on a military victory in Chechnya, such an attempt to arrange its leader's future does not seem unlikely.

The most logical refuge for him would be Jordan. The Chechen (or as it is more often called—the Circassian) diaspora is very influential there and is a bulwark of the Hashemite monarchy. Men from families of North Caucasian origin form the backbone of King Husayn's personal guard. Apart from this, by offering sanctuary to Dudayev, who is keen to say much about Islam and Islamic solidarity, the Jordanian monarch would be making a gesture to the Muslim fundamentalists who are in opposition to his government—including in parliament.

In conversation with your correspondent, however, Jordanian Embassy First Secretary Salih al-Jawarnah categorically denied that there had been any contacts with the Russian side in this matter. "This is an internal matter for your country," he said. For his part, a well-informed diplomat from the Foreign Ministry's Near East Department also stated: Nothing is known at Smolensk Square [Russian Federation Foreign Ministry] about attempts to find a place for Dudayev to emigrate to.

In the meantime, it has been announced that the chairman of the Chechen parliament, Yusup Soslambekov, will hold a news conference at Moscow's "Radisson-Slavyanskaya" Hotel in which Jordanian parliamentary deputy Sheikh 'abd-al-Baqi Jammu—a Chechen by nationality—will take part.

As regards Turkey—yet another state which is being named as a likely destination for the Chechen president—it is hardly likely to grant Dudayev asylum. In the past, even such a friend of that country as former leader of Azerbaijan Abulfaz Elchibey, who was deposed by pro-Moscow politicians, did not receive an unequivocal promise from Ankara that it would accept him. It is hardly likely that the Turkish Government, which is bothered about the growth in the influence of Islamic fundamentalists, will wish to see the bellicose Chechen leader in its country. "If Mr. Dudayev seeks asylum from us, we will treat him like an ordinary Russian citizen," a staffer at the Turkish Embassy in Moscow told IZVESTIYA.

That leaves Iran, where interest in what is happening in Chechnya is very great. The local press is noticeably sympathetic toward the Chechen leader. The position of the official authorities, repeated last Monday by Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati at a meeting with a group of Russian journalists, remains the traditional one: The conflict in Chechnya is an internal matter for Russia.

Meeting of Russian, Azeri, Armenian Presidents Postponed

LD3011140994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1345 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 30 Nov—The meeting between the presidents of Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia planned for Thursday [1 December] in Moscow has been postponed at the request of the Azerbaijani side. Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Press and Information Department of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today that it should be held very soon. The specific dates of the meeting are still to be agreed.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned that the main topic of the postponed meeting was to have been new initiatives on a settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Meeting of Russian, Lithuanian, Polish Deputies Postponed

LD3011122694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The meeting of legislators of Russia, Lithuania and Poland planned for November 30, Wednesday, has been put off until a later date, Speaker of the Federation Council (the upper house of Russian parliament) Vladimir Shumeyko told Interfax. He said the decision follows the possibility of calling a special Council session to discuss President Yeltsin's decree imposing a state of emergency in Chechnya.

The three sides were due to meet at the Polish town of Goldap and western Russian exclave of Kaliningrad to discuss cross border trade, customs tariffs and military and civilian railway shipments from Russia to Kaliningrad. Shumeyko who was elected to the Federal Assembly from Kaliningrad was to lead the Russian delegation.

The tripartite meeting will probably be held in January, Council sources believe.

Amount of Japanese Industrial Credits Still Be Settled

LD3011173394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1649 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo November 30 TASS—On the fourth day of his visit to Japan, Russian First deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets took a sightseeing tour around the ancient Japanese capital of Kyoto and met businessmen from the Kansai Province. There were no reasons for him to expect any unpleasant surprises, and yet he was confronted with them.

Although Tokyo promised to prepare before Soskovets's departure a document on increasing Japanese industrial credits to Russia up to 530 mln dollars instead of the earlier agreed sum of 400 mln dollars, it turned out on Wednesday this promise was unlikely to be kept.

The deputy prime minister himself admitted that this issue was yet to be settled. According to him, Moscow does not plan to conclude a 400-mln-dollar credit agreement. "Perhaps not during this visit, but later we will certainly sign a document on extending to Russia an industrial credit worth 530 mln dollars", Soskovets claimed.

On Wednesday, the Japanese firm Mitsui Bussan dismissed yesterday's report about a contract allegedly signed with the Russian Lukoil concern, under which the concern was to receive a 700-mln-dollar credit. This was to have become the first major joint commercial project between Russian and Japanese private companies, initiated during the current visit. According to sources at the Japanese Ministry for Foreign Trade and Industry, Japan attached certain reservations to this credit, above all concerning guarantees from the Russian Government, which made the contract signing impossible.

Now the proposed contract between the Lukoil and Mitsui Bussan companies is to be submitted for consideration of a newly-established Russian-Japanese Intergovernmental Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Nevertheless, speaking today at a meeting of the Federation of Kansai Economic Organizations, Soskovets praised Japanese businessmen for being very energetic and pushing. According to him, these qualities could be used to the best advantage in cooperation with Russia, the present scope of which "is obviously not enough, taking into consideration the potential of both sides".

Kansai business leaders attending the meeting used this opportunity to discuss specific spheres of cooperation, in particular the future fate of the Nakhodka Free Economic Zone and a project for creating a special economic zone in the mouth of the Tumangan River.

On Wednesday evening, the Russian vice-premier arrived in the prefecture of Oita on the Kyushu Island, which is the last point of his two-day trip around the country. After visiting Japan's biggest company manufacturing photography and video equipment, Kenon, and the Shinnittetsu steel mill based there, Soskovets is to leave for Russia on Thursday.

Soskovets Concludes 'Business Part' of Visit to Japan

MM3011134394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "Tokyo Sees Off Soskovets on Tour of Country"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo—The business part of the visit to Japan by a powerful Russian delegation led, as pointed out in the official Russian Cabinet of Ministers apparatus press release, by Oleg Soskovets, who is not only first vice premier but also captain of the government soccer team, effectively came to an end on Monday [28 November], but formally (following a press conference) on Tuesday.

The first half of the visit, which the Moscow team played in the Japanese capital, with its talks, exchanges of opinions, and other official complexities is behind them. Ahead lies the second half of the trip, which will be interesting and promises a wealth of impressions for all members of the large delegation, including the Russian minister of railways, who will spend a whole two hours working on his specialism for the first and last time during the visit—a trip on the Japanese high-speed train from Tokyo to the ancient capital of Kyoto. A change of impression and scene is not only necessary for the commander of the Russian railroads, however, but also for most of Soskovets' other exhausted comrades on the tour, whose standing, expertise, and experience remained untapped during the official program.

But entertainment is not something you write about, it is something you enjoy. Thus, I must return to the last working minutes of the visit, which contain plenty of interest. Let me start by saying that Oleg Nikolayevich found time in his tight work schedule to address Russian citizens working in Japan for 10 minutes. In this time the delegation head managed to attack First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays by pointing out that major mistakes have been made in the course of reforms, particularly when it comes to privatization, which has experienced "tremendous problems"; to tell his compatriots that everything is stable at home, tendencies toward improvement have emerged, next year's budget is tricky and difficulties lie ahead; to slightly criticize the State Duma; to accuse unidentified official structures of apathy in preparing the visit to Japan and to highlight his own role in seeking points of contact with a complex partner like Japan; to reproach the leadership of Far Eastern areas for going to Japan too often and being too ineffective in preparing these talks, transforming them into a round of accommodations, eating, and flights home; to ask the gathering for new approaches because life in Russia also requires greater pragmatism and less shyness in every respect. There were no interested questions for the speaker since there was no time.

At the final press conference in the Japanese Press Club there was time, albeit not plenty of it, and the assembled reporters, on learning from the introductory address that the Russian delegation head is by and large pleased with the visit, got an opportunity to ask pressing questions. They asked for instance how Moscow's statements regarding its desire for friendship and cooperation should be squared with the firing on Japanese fishermen and how the unstable political situation in Russia will affect bilateral relations. As for the shooting, Soskovets promised to take steps on his return home and, with regard to the domestic situation in Russia, he asked the Japanese not to worry.

Slight awkwardness arose in the room on two occasions. When asked whether it had been possible to get Tokyo to increase the amount of credit via the export-import bank to $530 million, Soskovets said "yes," although this was not in fact possible. When asked about the prospects for concluding an agreement on fishing in South Kuril waters, the delegation head said that this agreement has already been initialed. In actual fact official talks have not yet begun—it has only been agreed that they will be held and it is not known when this document will see the light of day. A member of the official delegation—the chairman of the Russian Fishing Committee—had to correct the first vice premier.

The first vice premier's press secretary desperately tried to get the press conference organizers to ensure that the delegation head was not bothered with questions about the territorial problem. This evidently came as such a surprise that the meeting's moderator informed all those present about this, in response to which Soskovets promised to reprimand his subordinate.

It only remains to point out that, after a long search for favorable epithets, the Japanese mass media finally found a suitable term of appraisal for the reports on the Russian delegation's visit—"confirmation of the starting point." It is hard for the gathering to understand the depth of this definition but it boils down to the following—the main positive result of Soskovets' coming to Tokyo by special aircraft, from the Japanese viewpoint, is that he did not go back on the Tokyo Declaration that

Yeltsin signed last year and reaffirmed that all the previous accords remain in force. With this lofty assessment the Japanese saw off the delegation to see the sights of Japan on its tour of the country, which will last through 1 December.

'Satisfied' With Visit

LD0112105694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0840 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beppu, Oita Prefecture, December 1 TASS—Oleg Soskovets, Russian first deputy premier, told ITAR-TASS on Thursday [1 December] he is satisfied with the results of his visit to Japan continuing today. He spends the last day of his visit in Oita Prefecture in the north-east of Kyushu Island, familiarizing himself with industrial enterprises situated in the area. During a visit to one of the biggest complexes of Shinnittetsu Metallurgical Company, Soskovets pointed to the importance of ensuring that production is not hazardous for the environment.

"Ordinary people show interest in cooperation with Russia," Soskovets said. "Japanese show the readiness for a dialogue on matters where politics are not involved," he said. Regarding Russia's foreign economic policy, the first deputy premier noted its main directions envisage the introduction of "a national regime for economic activities of foreign entrepreneurs," In this connection he declared for the attraction of foreign investment to Russia through the privatisation of enterprises, the lifting of export quotas on most goods, the reduction of centralised export and curbs on some imports and subsidies.

Moscow Reporter Reviews Results

OW0112020794 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Japanese 1321 GMT 29 Nov 94

[Report by Konstantin Garibov]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Tuesday, 29 November, Oleg Soskovets, Russia's first deputy prime minister, completed the formal schedule for his Japan visit. The following is a report from reporter Konstantin Garibov.

A joint communique was issued following First Deputy Prime Minister Soskovets' completion of formal talks in Tokyo. The main point of the joint communique is a reconfirmation of the two nations' desire to upgrade Russia-Japan relations to pursue a genuine partnership. The Governments of Russia and Japan reconfirmed their stances to strictly abide by bilateral agreements in the Tokyo Declaration, which was signed during President Boris Yeltsin's Japan visit in October 1993, and other documents. The communique also stressed the need for further promoting political dialogue at all levels to deepen bilateral relations and to strengthen bilateral cooperation in international affairs. Moreover, the communique notes both Russia and Japan want to conclude a bilateral peace treaty as soon as possible.

As is commonly known, the peace treaty issue is closely related to the long-pending territorial dispute between Russia and Japan, and the territorial issue became one of major topics during the series of talks. First Deputy Prime Minister Soskovets said in a news conference in Tokyo that the territorial issue is one of the most difficult and complicated proposals offered by Japan, and he called for the Japanese Government's patience and wisdom in settling the issue. First Deputy Prime Minister Soskovets added that some time would be needed to settle the territorial issue.

The territorial issue was not the only topic. Russia and Japan agreed to open negotiations on the development of bilateral cooperation in fishing in the waters off the South Kuril Islands in the near future. According to a translation, the joint communique says the agreement on future negotiations is one of the most significant achievements during the first deputy prime minister's visit. In addition, the communique highly rated bilateral discussions on measures for activating Japanese assistance to Russia with better conditions for trade and investment. Addressing a news conference, First Deputy Prime Minister Soskovets disclosed the Japanese Government's offer of $530 million in loans.

Considerable progress was also observed in talks on Japan's technological assistance for Russia's efforts to establish a market economy system. In this field, both nations have great expectations for the future role of the inter-governmental trade and business committee. Establishment of the committee was agreed on in a memorandum signed by First Deputy Prime minister Soskovets and Yohei Kono, Japanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

After the series of formal meetings with Japanese Government leaders, First Deputy Prime Minister Soskovets is scheduled to visit several Japanese cities on 30 November and 1 December. During the two-day trip, he is expected to visit some major companies and factories, and to meet politicians and businessmen.

Davydov Notes Value of Mongolian Trade, Debt Repayments

LD3011213094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2015 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mongolia is one of the most reliable payers of its debts on credits granted by the former Soviet Union, Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov said.

In answer to journalists' questions after signing a protocol on his working meeting with Mongolian Deputy Prime Minister Chojilsuren Purevdorj Wednesday, he said that Mongolia repaid its debt to Russia, estimated at 10 billion of convertible Soviet rubles, in hard currency. "This year, it paid $6 million," he added.

According to Davydov, the debt was not the main issue of bilateral trade and economic relations. "It is more important to find possibilities to develop business cooperation between the two countries passing through reforms and give it a huge impetus," he believes.

Davydov pointed out that bilateral trade turnover had stabilized at $250-$300 million after certain decline. However, both sides have higher trade capabilities, he added.

In the near future, Russia will boost purchases of meat from Mongolia, while Russian and Mongolian engineers will intensify their cooperation in the production of gold and energy along with reconstruction and construction of industries on the Mongolian territory.

For his part, Purevdorj said the two sides reached an agreement to hold an official visit of the Mongolian prime minister in February 1995.

Further Agreement Signed With Ukraine on Gas Supplies

LD3011122394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gazprom, Russia's joint stock gas company, and its Ukrainian counterpart Ukrgazprom signed in Moscow Tuesday [29 November] a supplement to this year's contract on the delivery of 4 billion cubic meters of Russian gas to Ukraine next month.

The need for signing this document stemmed from Gazprom's fulfillment of its commitments to supply a total of over 52 billion cubic meters of gas to Ukraine in 1994.

In line with the addendum, Gazprom will transport fuel to Ukraine on the terms of advance payment, provided the bank, funding Ukrgazprom, will irrevocably guarantee gas shipment payment.

As Gazprom has reported to Petroleum Information Agency, the new document is short of a pledge to repay a $1.7 billion worth debt for the Russian gas delivered to Ukraine in 1993-94. "We are solving this question by other channels", the source explained and reported that the sides have so far not agreed a contract on gas supply in 1995, even though the draft of an accord was made available to Ukraine a month ago.

Meanwhile, having met its obligations to Ukraine, Gazprom had to slash its gas shipment first by 40 percent and then by yet another 80 percent. In these conditions, Ukrainian consumers began to siphon gas from the export gas pipe lines, crossing Ukraine into Western and Central Europe. As a result, a number of foreign Russian gas importers did not get more than 25 percent of the gas intended for them Tuesday.

On the same day, Gazprom boosted gas export by 37 million cubic meters a day, however, that was not enough to compensate for the gas siphoned by Ukraine.

U.S. Warship Development Plans Viewed

MM0112114194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Maryukha: "How To Limit Limitless Possibilities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian ship builders and seamen recall with nostalgia the rule of the era of stagnation. Because it was then that the USSR Navy developed at a pace comparable only with that before the war. The wind of change which came after the calm figuratively speaking deflated the navy's sails and though they seem to be quivering in the wind there is no "pull." In other words instead of the expected result there is not simply stagnation but the worst possible slump. The last ships are being completed at the shipyards and after them there is nothing. There is not even an approved shipbuilding program for the next 10-15 years just as there is no concept for the development of the navy, which solely determines what ships should be built and how many of them should be built.

But the era of global confrontation which would seem to have been consigned to oblivion does not mean the automatic rejection of the development of their own navies in other countries which are not experiencing crisis phenomena like us. That applies primarily to the United States. Having rid themselves of the need for the competitive development of their own navy the Americans are ready to give a free rein to their own fantasy, as is borne out by the trend in the development of their Navy.

The most expensive arms system in the Pentagon military budget in fiscal 1995 will be the 10th CVN-76 nuclear aircraft carrier costing $4.5 billion. And that is according to the most modest calculations because the similar monster to follow it will cost taxpayers a round $6.1 billion. It is planned that the new aircraft carrier will join the Navy in the year 2003. Actually, the ship is not distinguished by anything particularly new—there are no basic differences from the leading ship Nimitz. And the U.S. Navy has no special need of a new aircraft carrier. The building was planned primarily at the insistence of the military-industrial lobby which is thus seeking to preserve the nuclear-powered ship building infrastructure. But the studies conducted in the United States, a considerable part of whose conclusions were passed on to me during a private meeting by Joshua Hendler, a coordinator for the "Green Peace" organization, show that even such a wealthy country cannot allow itself to build ships whose advantages are only declared. The point is that a nuclear aircraft carrier, unrestricted in terms of its range, is just as dependent on various forms of backup as a ship with a conventional power plant. The crew and personnel of air wings have to be fed and, just as on a conventional ship, stocks of fuel for aircraft and on-board service craft need to be replenished periodically and other material has to be brought in for a surface nuclear-powered ship. So upon checking the unrestricted autonomy of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier turns out to involve the need for refueling once every three days. Thus, for instance, on comparing the intervals at which auxiliary ships had to service the nuclear aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt and the John F. Kennedy, an aircraft carrier with a conventional power plant, the following emerged. In the course of 183 days at sea the former received "rations" on 63 occasions while the latter took on freight on 78 occasions during 226 days of sailing. In both cases the internal was 2.9 days.

On the other hand, in terms of its combat potential the nuclear aircraft carrier is in no way superior to a conventional one and in terms of its ability to stand up in combat it is even inferior—if the reactor is damaged it can hardly count on the ship's radioactive contamination helping to fulfill tasks.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED that ideas of abandoning nuclear aircraft carriers are already being mulled over in U.S. military minds. The point is that "in certain circumstances" the functions of nuclear and conventional aircraft carriers can also be carried out by wide-deck amphibious warfare ships carrying VTOL aircraft. Certain circumstances mean the absence of global confrontation and muscle-flexing in a local conflict with the aid of an aircraft carrier is already an extravagance which U.S. congressmen will hardly allow in the near future even for the most intransigent "hawks."

From this viewpoint their own aircraft-carrying cruisers fit in the best possible way into the overall picture of the weapons needed to maintain peace. And it is for that reason that many countries which cannot yet afford to develop the building of such ships themselves are displaying interest in buying them.

As we know, even today the U.S. Navy's combat strength includes modernized battleships which have been in service for over 50 years. Reliable armoring combined with modern weapons favorably distinguishes these ships from their younger brothers without armored protection. Moreover, the heavy cannon artillery (the heavy guns on the battleship Missouri, which took part in the Persian Gulf war are nine 406 mm guns) is sometimes far more effective than the most high-precision missiles. Add to that the advantages of such ships in terms of their resistance to the impact of conventional weapons, their relative cheapness, and their ability to resolve the most diverse tasks. Considering the policy pursued by the United States of protecting state interests throughout the world oceans, the battleship is more suitable than any other ship for fulfilling the function of showing the stars and stripes. That is why an order for the building of a new generation of battleship is already being considered in the portfolio of U.S. Navy long-term projects.

In the past the USSR abandoned such work, the ships under construction were sent for scrap and Western intelligence agents were fed "misinformation"—the project allegedly being developed for a battleship whose arms would consist of two towers each with three 406 mm guns and two... missile towers. I do not know how this misinformation influenced the course of design thought in the West but the project developed in the United States repeats many of the fabrications of the phony Russian project. The U.S. battleship of the 21st century acquired "streamlined" forms. Retaining one tower with two heavy guns, they concealed vertically launched missiles in the superstructures and on the decks. They "borrowed" from the submariners the principle of enclosing antenna and other devices essential in battle in an armored shell. And to judge by ships built in past years the armoring of the battleship could comprise up to 30 percent of the water displacement and then even antiship missiles will not cause it serious damage.

And a few more words about one of the determining avenues of shipbuilding in the forthcoming millenium. It is a case of our surface-effect vehicles experimental and series models of which the Americans have studied inside out. With missile weapons and extensive airborne troops accommodation, this aircraft-ship is excellently suited to the U.S. Navy's fulfillment of rapid response functions. The United States does not intend to invest money in the construction of surface-effect vehicles in Russia but it would be very pleased to acquire the technology. The reader is left to draw his own conclusions....

We shall make the following point. Not for confrontation but merely for the greater stability of the newly structured peace the Russian Navy should not lag behind "what is good in the West." Otherwise the navy will meet the same fate as the invincible armada destroyed by new tactics by new ships and Russia will see off its shores only the U.S. flag which its partners for the sake of peace and the protection of their own interests will not scorn to show from their sophisticated ships.

FCS Confirms Recruitment of Mercenaries

OW3011145594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1935 GMT 29 Nov 94

[Report by Yelena Golubeva over video; from the "Dossier" feature of the "Utro" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS], 120 young Russian men from Ivanovo, Kaluga, Vladimir, Tambov, and Tula oblasts left Ivanovo by Aeroflot plane for Baku last December. The oblast military commissariats offered them contract service in the Russian Army in the territory of one of the CIS countries.

[Begin unidentified soldier recording] At the employment service, I saw an announcement about contract service. I went to the military commissariat. They offered me service in the 201st Division. They told us that a Russian, a purely Russian, motorized infantry regiment would be formed and that, supposedly, we would be serving and fighting on behalf of Russia. [end recording]

Only after arriving in Baku did the Russian contract servicemen realize that, in reality, they had become mercenaries in the Azerbaijan Army. They were to get 500,000 rubles [R] a month, half of it in hard currency, and R5 million in case of death. By comparison the average [monthly] wage in the Russian provinces that day was R20,000. According to unofficial reports, the recruiters from the military commissariats received $250 per person.

[Begin recording] [Mikhaylov] These lads were tasked with the dirtiest functions and jobs, with carrying out sabotage and terrorist activities.

[Second unidentified soldier] We were trained by two instructors. They were Azerbaijanis. [They taught us how to carry out] ambushes, raids, how to seize a prisoner [yazyk], and how to conduct sabotage operations and to cross borders. These two lieutenants had gone through special training in a Turkish school where a Canadian system was used. We began receiving missions and were sent directly into the rear of the Armenians where we fulfilled various missions.

[Mikhaylov] On patrol, they ran into their own countrymen who were on a similar patrol from the opposing side. [Golubeva says a few indistinct words over the video] So they would sit down and have a smoke on neutral ground, have a chat and reminisce a bit, and then go their separate ways. Whether we like it or not, today we have a situation in which Russian lads are shooting at Russian lads in the interests of third countries. [end recording]

And often they carry out operations which are criminal, which gives these countries the opportunity to put pressure on them.

[Begin Mikhaylov recording] Recruiting efforts have also been made by the special services of the corresponding countries in the interests of the countries' intelligence gathering activities—and in the interests of the intelligence service of this country—against Russia. This is a documented fact. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [First soldier] We went to the battalion commander for a certificate attesting to the fact that we had been in combat, and when we got there a captain of the Azerbaijani counterintelligence got out of the vehicle with us and offered his help. He offered us work in Russia on the conclusion of our contracts. He would give us transportation, weapons, money—everything, even a hideout. If we agreed, our passports would be confiscated before our departure for Russia—probably to be able to keep us under control. Now this would mean betrayal of the motherland if we worked for a foreign counterintelligence service, even that of another CIS country. We did not agree.

[Second soldier] A mercenary there is not treated like a human. You have sold yourself for money and that's that. As far as the romantics are concerned, who think they will be like Rambo, well this promptly disappears; it stops there. There is nothing romantic there, it becomes a matter of survival. I would not advise anybody to go there. There is no sanitation, we could wash about once a month, and medical services are practically nonexistent. They gave us these bandage kits and that was all. If you were wounded slightly, they would not send you to any kind of hospital. You get bandaged and off you go. If you can hold an automatic, hold it, and if you cannot, you can always do something in the rear.

[First soldier] One lad was hit by a mortar. He was blown to bits. Of course he had no medallions or bracelets, he had nothing. Now it would seem that this had happened before everybody's eyes. Everybody saw who it was and knew his name and where he was from, his address. They knew everything. But when an officer arrived to draw up a certificate of death—he was listed missing in action: Who knows, maybe he had surrendered; what the hell should we pay five million for? And some people think that our boys could lie or make some things up. But we knew these lads. We had become friends, its not like in the movies. They are normal soldiers who just found themselves there.

Now, I have an owl living in my garden. On the first night when I returned home—I returned at 0200 hours—the owl began to screech. Well, I did not fall flat on my face, but I did go down on my haunches, because the Armenian scouts would usually imitate a jackal's cry or an owl. Usually, we would go on reconnaissance at night. I hate this, it is something I have not gotten over yet. [end recording]

The military procuracy of a number of garrisons instituted 19 criminal suits on the basis of Russian counterintelligence materials. Subsequently, these suits were merged into one. As of today the investigation has been discontinued.

[Begin Mikhaylov recording] All the officials who were involved in the recruitment or helped recruit for the Azerbaijani Army are still at their posts and are still on the payroll. I say officials, because I cannot call them officers. Everything that has happened is a vivid illustration of something Napoleon said: If you stop feeding your own army, you start feeding somebody else's. [end recording]

The Russians were always renowned for brave soldiers. It would be a pity if they degenerate into recruiters and mercenaries.

Political Issues

'Rumors' of Paratroopers Moving Towards Chechnya Denied

LD3011182794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladimir Potapov, North Caucasian Military District chief of staff, denied rumors of a paratrooper division moving towards Chechnya.

He told Interfax on telephone Wednesday [30 November] that there were no concentration of Russian personnel or military hardware in the Northern Caucasus as of 1800 [1500 GMT]."

He presumed that the local civilians might mistake the interior troops enforcing the emergency rule in the Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia for paratroopers.

Chernomyrdin 'Ready To Do Anything' To Solve Crisis

LD3011164694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1559 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 30 Nov—We will do everything possible to ensure that the bloodshed is stopped, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the chairman of the Russian Government, told an ITAR- TASS correspondent in reply to his question about the measures the government was likely to take in connection with the aggravation of the situation in Chechnya.

Our approach to this issue is stated in the appeal of the Russian president but we must wait a little till the time given for consideration expires, said the head of the Russian Government. He added: Forty-eight hours is an ample time to give the matter a good thought. Chernomyrdin also said: We have tried to be patient for more than two years and waited for sensible attitudes to prevail, so we can be patient and wait for just a little longer. At the same time, the prime minister expressed the hope that there will be some people even in Chechnya who realize that things of this kind cannot be played with any longer.

We will do everything possible, we are ready to do anything to prevent further aggravation of the situation, but things just cannot go on like this, said the chairman of the Russian Government in conclusion.

Yeltsin 'Must Not Shirk' Solution to Chechen Problem

MM0112100594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed article: "The Situation in Chechnya Is Russia's Domestic Problem. And No One But Russia Can Resolve It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By the time this issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reaches the readers, the 48-hour deadline which the Russian president set for the participants in the armed confrontation in the Chechen Republic to adopt responsible decisions and take practical actions to comply with the federal authorities' demands will have expired. By that time readers will be up to date with the development of events. But we can only proceed from assumptions.

It is clear that the time limit set by the president for a cease-fire, for the armed formations to lay down their arms and disband themselves, and for the release of all citizens who have been taken prisoner and forcibly detained in connection with the conflict, imposes specific obligations only on the participants in the confrontation in Chechnya but does not oblige the president himself to take measures in response [otvetnyye mery] specifically by the morning of 1 December. The important point is that the nature of the possible response measures and the fact that all the manpower, equipment, and weapons [sily i sredstva] at the state's disposal will be used to end the bloodshed, protect the lives, rights, and freedoms of Russian citizens, and restore the constitutional rule of law, law and order, and peace in the Chechen Republic have been announced in advance, openly, and resolutely. The events in Chechnya, which our whole society has been following not for months but for years with deep anxiety, are events taking place in Russia. The leaders of Russian Federation components bordering on Chechnya consider it their duty to point this out to Boris Yeltsin as guarantor of the Russian Federation Constitution and of human and civil rights and freedoms. "There is in fact a civil war in progress on the territory of the Russian Federation," according to a message signed by Aslan Dzharimov, president of the Republic of Adygea; Aksarbek Galazov, president of North Ossetia (Aslania); Valeriy Kokov, president of the Kabardino-Balkar Republic; Yevgeniy Kuznetsov, head of Stavropol Kray Administration; Yevgeniy Kharitonov, head of Krasnodar Kray Administration; Vladimir Chub, head of Rostov Oblast Administration; and Vladimir Khubiyev, head of the Karachay-Cherkess Republic, "and the blood of peaceful civilians is being shed."

The situation in Chechnya, which is constantly deteriorating, has the most direct bearing on Russia's national security and state integrity and is affecting the lives of millions of people. The federal authorities and president of the Russian Federation must not shirk the solution of this serious and acute but especially internal Russian problem. Life has demonstrated that problems of this scale do not resolve themselves. It has also convincingly proven something else: In this regard political means are most productive and effective and must not be discounted even in extreme circumstances. Boris Yeltsin's address to the participants in the armed conflict also belongs to the category of peaceful, political means. But it is also a reminder: The head of state has no intention of delaying with the solution of the conflict and will not permit the Russian Constitution to be flouted. We are clearly late in that respect.

Communists Urge Chechens To Free POW's

LD3011151694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation circulated a statement on Wednesday urging the Chechen authorities to demonstrate good will by freeing Russian POWS, captured during combat operations in Chechnya, and passing them over to the federal bodies.

"The sad experience of Ingushetia and North Ossetia has not taught the central authorities any lessons. The Russian public is being kept in the dark about the true circumstances of the involvement of Russian servicemen and citizens of other countries in the conflict, and of the presence of modern armaments and military equipment in the arsenals of the conflicting parties," reads the document.

It also says that "the introduction of a state of emergency in Chechnya is possible only as an extreme measure, approved by the Federation Council, when other possibilities of peaceful settlement have been tapped."

"The search for a solution of the long-overdue problems in Chechnya should proceed in a different context, without making ultimatums and through mutual understanding attained in a dialogue and by way of reconciliation," it goes on to say.

"The developments in Chechnya have acquired a character explosive for Russia," says the statement. "The long drawn-out armed confrontation between different political groupings against the background of the federal authorities' formal neutrality, has evolved into a large-scale conflict," it reads. The victims of the conflict are not only direct participants in the armed clashes, but also civilians. All of these sacrifices are being made "for the sake of satisfying the political ambitions of the leaders of individual clans, who are struggling their way to power and property, as elsewhere in Russia," stated the Russian communist leaders.

Commander Denies Mercenaries, Arms Airlifted to Chechnya

LD3011160494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Air-Defense Forces Colonel-General Prudnikov has ruled out the possibility that mercenaries, weapons or ammunition were airlifted to Groznyy from former Soviet republics or countries outside the CIS. He told Interfax in an exclusive interview on Wednesday that reports about this were "absolutely unfounded."

Prudnikov said that in August, 1994, when the situation in Chechnya deteriorated, he received the order to "close" the air space above this North Caucasian republic. To do so, the efficiency of the regional control systems was enhanced and the "fighter-and-aviation" control over the border with Chechnya established.

"I'm authorized to state that not a single plane has landed in Chechnya or left the air space of the Chechen Republic without our permission since then," said Prudnikov.

He also said that the Russian Air-Defense Forces, stationed in the North Caucasus, are strong enough to maintain "the regime of special control and air defense in this region, especially along the borders of the Russian Federation."

Prior to the establishment of special control regime, illegal attempts had been made by various civilian planes to penetrate into Chechnya.

There were instance, when a plane flying to Tbilisi, Baku or other Transcaucasian cities, would cut off communication with traffic-control services near the airport of destination, start maneuvering and finally land in Grozny. In such a situation we could not do anything to stop the flight," he said.

To quote Prudnikov, no such incidents have occurred since August. He said that the Russian air-defense forces have curbed several attempts to penetrate into Chechnya by air.

He also described as "absolutely groundless" the assertions by Grozny that Afghan Mujahedeen may be airlifted to Grozny. "We shall not allow this to happen," he said.

Gaydar Party Attitude to President, Government Viewed

MM3011154994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Lyudmila Tsukanova: "Russia's Choice Members Ready for Coalition. Will Their Friends and Allies Respond?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the democrats' differences preventing them from agreeing on joint actions at the forthcoming parliamentary elections the main point on which compromise seems impossible is their attitude toward the president and government. Yavlinskiy ("Yabloko") and Fedorov ("12 December Union") have already repeatedly expressed their opposition. Their arguments are simple: The government is operating without a clear-cut program and the president's reforming potential is exhausted. The Duma democrats whose representatives are not part of executive power believe they should not be responsible for "bad" reforms and that only distancing themselves from the president and government can bring the democrats success at the forthcoming elections.

The viewpoint of the largest democratic faction in the State Duma—"Russia's Choice"—has long been defined as "conditional" support—constructive cooperation with the president and government with the right of criticism and opposition on those issues which give rise to fundamental differences. The political justification for this position was put by the faction's leader Yegor Gaydar at a recent plenum of the "Russia's Democratic Choice" party council.

Analyzing the experience of the development of East Europe's postcommunist countries, Gaydar noted that the success of reforms depends on the unity of the reformers and democratic organizations. Where the reformers do not obtain political support those who ultimately come to power are not their opponents from the democratic camp and not "alternative" reformers but antireformers. Applied to our reality that means that if the democratic voices come to the elections under the sign of opposition to the government's present course it is not they who will win—hypothetically speaking, not Yavlinskiy, not Fedorov, not Shakhray—but rather, because of the democrats' disarray, the national-Communists. The democrats' withdrawal into opposition to the president and government, Gaydar believes, is not only not entirely moral, it is also a shortsighted strategy which "promises no political dividends." For all their critical attitude toward the authorities' policy, the democrats should not have any illusions that "someone" will be responsible for the failures of the reforms: In the public awareness the reforms are firmly linked with those who began them. In the opinion of the "Russia's Democratic Choice" leader the correct tactic is to collaborate with the government and president and influence them.

Today the democrats' unification has become an urgent requirement. For instance, Gaydar does not exclude the option of early parliamentary elections in spring 1995—because of the possibility of the Duma's dissolution if it does not accept the budget. It is characteristic that on this issue he also differs with Yavlinskiy and Fedorov: The former believes such talk is "provocative" and the latter believes that the options of the government's resignation or the preparation of another draft budget are equally likely.

But even with a favorable development of events the democrats have to think of their strategy for the forthcoming elections right now. Since it is already obvious they will not manage to reach unity on the key issue, the "Russia's Democratic Choice" leader has suggested to all democratic forces that for the period of preparation for the further parliamentary elections they must "make clear" their attitude toward the president ("that is the question for 1996") and unite in their main task—creating in the next Duma a responsible moderate democratic majority which will make it possible to place a parliamentary foundation under the government's policy. Yegor Gaydar sees the basis for unification in the regions and at the elections for majority districts in each of which the democrats could reach real agreement on a single powerful candidate. Russia's Democratic Choice has stated that it is prepared for a broad moderate democratic coalition at the elections and suggests establishing rules for collaboration between democratic organizations in the election campaign. The Russia's Choice members believe this is the only promising tactic.

Is this idea taking grip of the broad democratic masses? The fact that it comes from "Russia's Democratic Choice," from Gaydar, makes one doubt it, since ambitious elements in the assertion of democratic structures and their winning of a place in the sun play far from the least role. But so far no one has suggested another platform for unification and consequently the Democratic Choice option has a chance. Of course if talk of unification is not simply talk for the democratic leaders.

Fedorov Analyzes Krasnodar, Sochi Elections

MM3011160994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Nov 94 p 2

[Commentary by State Duma Deputy Boris Fedorov: "Krasnodar-Sochi-Moscow?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The elections held in Krasnodar Kray cannot fail to cut any normal person to the quick. The worst assumptions were confirmed—Zhirinovskiy's supporters and the communists are winning by a landslide.

You can picture the scene: Peter I, Catherine the Great, who gave the Kuban to the Cossacks, and Hetman Platov have gotten together and they are deciding who to vote for: Zhirinovskiy or Zyuganov. Can you imagine the reaction? I think that it would be a tough one. Peter I would have sent the candidates off as recruits. Catherine would have sent them to Siberia, and Platov would have had them flogged and banished. What about the present-day Cossacks?

Why did this happen? There are, I think, three reasons.

First, our authority at all levels is itself creating Zhirinovskiys through its powerlessness and lack of will, through the absence of a vision of the future, through the lack of a rudder and sails. The weaker authority is, the smaller the results are; the more corruption, the greater the chances of the Zhirinovskiys and the Zyuganovs. In elections people always vote for or against authority.

Second, the democrats were to a considerable extent unable to dissociate themselves from authority, which they do not and did not have. Consequently the people associate democrats with authority and vote accordingly.

Third, elections are not won by sitting in comfortable armchairs with a cup of coffee. To win an election requires organization, action, going to the people, a specific program, and pledges.

Of course, in Krasnodar all three factors played a role. What is even more striking is the conclusion that **authority and the nomenklatura are afraid of the Zhirinovskiys and Zyuganovs much less than, for instance, of smart aleck reformers and genuine liberals and democrats.** Deep down the nomenklatura and the "irreconcilable opposition" feel kinship. None of them wants to actually change the system and do anything real. All they want is power. While the young radicals, God forbid, will change the system, and very many people will never again find an authoritarian post in it.

Not very far away from Krasnodar is the city of Sochi, where elections to the city assembly were held on the same Sunday. State Duma Deputy V. Boyko was able to unite ordinary normal people in a single election bloc, including entrepreneurs, physicians, jurists, journalists, and private farmers, that is to say, specialists in specific spheres.

None of them is desperate for power, they are fed up living like we are all living in Russia, they are fed up seeing lawlessness, corruption, the squandering of state resources and land, the games surrounding the Moscow big-wigs, who visit Sochi in their droves, the surge in crime, the influx of refugees, the attempts to turn the resort into an industrial port, and much else.

Ordinary people have united on a common platform in common interests, which have nothing to do with highfalutin theories, since everyone has a profession and a favorite cause. It turned out that a worthy candidate was nominated for every seat in the city assembly, and local forces were found to organize the collection of signatures, letters, leaflets, television speeches, and meetings.

There were, of course, mistakes and miscalculations, but the experience of Sochi City, located in Krasnodar Kray, showed that it is all a question of:

—The clarity of the program and pledges;

—The command principle and the feeling of comradeship;

—Energy and efficiency.

Boyko (28 years old) has, to put it mildly, a bad relationship with the local administration, which, in the performance of his duty as a journalist, he used [repeatedly] to set to rights. In December 1993 he beat former PRES [Party of Russian Unity and Accord] member K. Zatulin and the communist V. Sevastyanov, despite the powerful support given to them from Moscow and the leisurely support from the local authorities.

Now there are new elections. One of the candidates is arrested and released only after Moscow's intervention (do you think that anybody was dismissed for this unlawful action?). There are problems with the mass media. And clear violations during the holding of the elections (the Central Electoral Commission has already sent a commission).

There was torrential rain 20 November, and a little over the required 25 percent of people came to vote. **But nine of the 26 seats were won by members of Boyko's bloc, or 35 percent of all seats.**

This indicates that healthy forces can win elections in Russia, and that the people, at least in Sochi, **are quick on the uptake.** Were it not for the authorities' resistance the results would have been better. Of course, the authorities tried to say that the elections were invalid in the areas where "the wrong people" won. Of course, they will try to smash the bloc and buy off or frighten its members. **But the fact remains that it is possible to win.**

The events in Krasnodar and Sochi are a lesson for the whole of Russia. We are not doomed if we find the will to fight within ourselves and if we concentrate on solving the most specific problems, rather than groping around in the dark. The 50 million people who did not go to vote effectively helped Zhirinovskiy without actually wanting to do so.

Little time is left until the next elections and, if we want a better life, **we must act.** Because an absolute majority of Russian citizens want to live like human beings now, not in the 21st century.

Agrarian Party Leaders, Board Members Elected

MM3011165394 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 29 Nov 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Third Congress of Agrarian Party of Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Saturday and Sunday [26-27 November] the Third Congress of the Agrarian Party of Russia [APR] worked in the Hall of Columns of Moscow's House of the Unions; 79 republic, kray, oblast, and okrug organizations had elected 886 delegates to the congress, representing all the APR's production structures, the processing industry, the service sectors, and scientific and educational establishments.

The congress took on an international character. Representatives of sister parties from Bulgaria, Poland, Serbia, the Czech Republic, Iraq, Cuba, Armenia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova participated in its work and delivered greetings messages.

Party Chairman M.I. Lapshin delivered the APR Central Council's report. Auditing Commission Chairman V.I. Komarov delivered a report on the commission's work. The congress also heard reports on a draft Program and several amendments and amplifications of the APR Rules, which were delivered by Deputy Party Chairmen A.D. Mikhaylov and A.M. Biryukov.

The following spoke in the debates: V.I. Martynenko, deputy chairman of Krasnodar Kray Party Organization

Council; V.A. Fominykh, chairman of Altay Kray Party Organization Council; K.M. Nekrasova, leader of the Kursk Oblast primary party organization; S.A. Yenkov, State Duma deputy and delegate for Ryazan Oblast; G.I. Churkin, chairman of the Vladimir Oblast APR Council and State Duma deputy; V.I. Naumov, deputy chairman of the APR; N.P. Garbuzova, chairman of the "Druzhba" Kolkhoz in Bryansk Oblast; A.G. Nazarchuk, Russian Federation minister of agriculture and food; Doctor of Sociological Sciences G.S. Shirokalova (Nizhniy Novgorod); A.Kh. Zaveryukha, vice premier of the Russian Government; G.A. Zyuganov, chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Central Executive Committee; writers A.N. Artsybashev and A.S. Salutskiy; and others. In all 45 persons participated in the discussion of the reports.

The congress approved the Central Council's political line and practical activities for the period under review, adopted the APR Program, and made several amendments and amplifications to the Rules.

The congress unanimously elected Mikhail Ivanovich Lapshin as chairman of the Agrarian Party of Russia, as well as the new membership of the party's Central Council.

The following were elected board members at the APR Central Council plenum: M.I. Lapshin, A.M. Biryukov, A.Ye. Vorontsov, V.S. Krylov, N.M. Kharitonov, A.D. Mikhaylov, R.B. Asayev, V.V. Gukov, A.S. Davydov, N.S. Kotov, G.V. Kulik, G.A. Medentsov, B.P Okonechnikov, A.S. Ruchkin, P.Z. Ryabtsev, G.I. Churkin, I.P. Rybkin, A.Kh. Zaveryukha, A.G. Nazarchuk, V.N. Plotnikov, S.A. Ponomarev, V.A. Starodubtsev, N.A. Sukhoy, V.A. Fominykh, I.Ye. Klochkov, S.A. Yenkov, and A.I. Seleznev.

The following were elected deputy chairmen of the APR: A.M. Biryukov, A.Ye. Vorontsov, V.S. Krylov, A.D. Mikhaylov, and N.M. Kharitonov.

V.I. Komarov was elected chairman of the APR Auditing Commission.

(A detailed report on the congress's work will be published in this newspaper's next issue.)

Party Chairman Mikhail Lapshin stated last Saturday that the Agrarian Party may put forward its own candidate for the post of Russian president. In an interview on "Ostankino" Television's "Novosti Plyus" program, he said that his party alongside others "is also staking its claim to power." In his words, Russia "is a vast peasant country. It has won through its suffering the right to the president of this great country being of peasant background or their representative."

One of the program's correspondents reported that Mikhail Lapshin himself and Federation Council Member Vasiliy Starodubtsev are being named in Agrarian Party circles as the most likely candidates at the next presidential elections.

Political Motives Seen Behind Muslim Schism

MM0112095794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Nov 94 First Edition p 3

[Article by Dmitriy Mikhaylin: "Can the Almighty Be Divided? How an 'Action Group' Removed the Grand Mufti From Office"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kazan—As expected, the congress of Russian Muslims in Ufa did not end the long-running dispute over who is the true spiritual leader of the country's Muslim population.

This conflict began a long time ago. But it was brought to the notice of the general public by Gabdulla-khazrat, chairman of the Spiritual Administration of the Muslims of Tatarstan. The conflict broke out over a mosque built in Naberezhnyye Chelny under the patronage of Mufti Talgat Tadzhutdin, chairman of the Central Spiritual Administration of the Muslims [CSAM] of the European part of the CIS, the Baltic countries, and Siberia. Its windows were adorned not just with the crescent, the traditional symbol of Islam, but also the six-pointed Star of David and the Orthodox cross, which prompted Gabdulla-khazrat to call Tadzhutdin a madman. "Only someone who is mentally ill," Gabdulla-khazrat said, "can love the symbol of orthodoxy—a religion which has suppressed Islam since 1552 (the year that Kazan was taken by Ivan the Terrible—D.M. note)."

In an interview for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, Mufti Tadzhutdin, who is well known for his ecumenical views, explained his decision like this: "This mosque was meant to symbolize the friendship between peoples and religions. It is no coincidence that it was built in Naberezhnyye Chelny, the city where, on the one hand, hundreds of nations and peoples have mingled and where, on the other, national tendencies are very strong. Incidentally, my idea involving the Jewish star and the Christian cross is not original—these symbols are used, for example, in the design of the famous Blue Mosque in Turkey."

After the scandal over the mosque broke out, some opposition leaders headed by Gabdulla-khazrat convened an "extraordinary congress of Muslims" in Naberezhnyye Chelny. That congress expressed no-confidence in Talgat Tadzhutdin and also adopted a decision to form the autonomous Muslim spiritual administrations of Tatarstan and Bashkortostan independent of the CSAM and assigned several oblasts to each of them.

It should be noted that all these things happened when passions over the sovereignties of the former Russian autonomous formations were at their height. At the same time it is common knowledge that the Spiritual Administration of Muslims in Ufa was created on the orders of Catherine II, the empress of "the neighboring state of Russia," as it was customary to say in Tatarstan then.

In addition, the nationalists were angry with Tadzhutdin because he had never supported them but, on the contrary, made numerous statements on the need to preserve the integrity of the Russian Federation. Hence there is justification for the view that the division among the Muslims was actively fostered by the nationalist organizations of Bashkortostan and particularly of Tatarstan. And many well-to-do members of these organizations also gave material support to the schism process. In particular, the Kashapov brothers, entrepreneurs from Naberezhnyye Chelny, provided funding for the extraordinary congress.

The reaction of Tadzhutdin, who was abroad during the congress itself, was swift and resolute. On his arrival in Ufa a plenum of the CSAM was convened where the schismatics, numbering around 15, were dismissed from the administration and stripped of holy orders. Furthermore, it was noted that the congress itself had been held in breach of CSAM standing orders.

A lull then ensued in this "inter-Muslim" conflict. However, the dyarchy persisted in Tatarstan, for instance: On the one hand, the Republic's Muslims are led by the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Tatarstan headed by Gabdulla-khazrat, on the other by the mufti of Tatarstan Gabdulkhak-khazrat, appointed by the Central Spiritual Administration.

The Republic's authorities have not interfered in this process nor are they doing so now. All that true believers can do is wait to see how things work out.

The congress of Russian Muslims held in Ufa dismissed Talgat Tadzhutdin after first amending the rule in the CSAM charter which states that the grand mufti is elected for life. As before the main reason is the sheykh-ul-islam's mental illness. However, in the opinion of people who know Tadzhutdin well, this is just a vile rumor started by his opponents. (At a meeting with the mufti the author of this article did not, by the way, detect any symptoms of the "incriminating" illness in him.) "Of course, I can get a hospital to certify that I am completely sane but why should I have to prove to these buffoons that I am not a camel?" Talgat-efendi said.

Be that as it may, the staging of the recent extraordinary congress of Muslims gave fresh impetus to the conflict. A message on this issue adopted by the CSAM and signed by the members of the presidium of the Central Administration—the muftis of Tatarstan, Chuvashia, Ukraine, Moldavia, and Rostov, Leningrad, Ulyanovsk, Penza, Astrakhan, Perm, Sverdlovsk, and Chelyabinsk oblasts—says that a "certain

On 1 November, at the same time as the congress, an all-Russia mejlis of members of the presidium of the Council of Ulemas and representatives of the parishes and clergy of the CSAM was held in the Ufa cathedral mosque on the initiative of the CSAM leadership.

The mejlis expressed "indignation at the unlawful actions of the 'action group,' which has grossly violated the norms of the CSAM charter." Specifically, this referred to the fact that, according to the CSAM charter, which is registered with the Russian Justice Ministry, the right to convene a congress belongs solely to the sheykh-ul-islam, the presidium, or two-thirds of the CSAM communities. In addition, the decision to hold a congress is to be announced at least one to two months before its opening date and its delegates are to be elected in all parishes at the general Friday worship.

On the grounds that the "action group" did not fulfill a single one of these conditions, the all-Russia mejlis "...adjudged the assembly to be unlawful and resolutely condemned the actions of these extremists, who enjoy the financial support of certain dubious structures which are trying to destroy the integrity of Russia and the peace and tranquillity of its peoples."

The address also said that Talgat Tadzhutdin remains the grand mufti of the CSAM of the European part of the CIS, the Baltic countries, and Siberia and continues to perform his duties.

On the banner of our country's Muslims it is inscribed in gold on a green background: "Unite in the one faith in the almighty and do not stray." But what we are actually seeing is a split in the Muslim world in Russia. Allah alone knows where this might lead.

Yeltsin Suggests Two Candidates to Constitutional Court

LD0112115794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1043 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 1 TASS—President Yeltsin submitted for the consideration of the Federation Council two candidates to the vacant posts of judges of the Constitutional Court, a spokesman for the upper chamber of the Russian parliament told ITAR-TASS today. These are Sergey Vitsin, head of a department of the Moscow Higher Militia School, and Vladimir Strekozov, deputy head of the Military Academy of Economy, Finance and Law. They are both doctors of law, merited lawyers of the Russian Federation, both are military lawyers in the rank of major general.

In accordance with the constitution, the candidatures suggested by the president will be discussed by the Federation Council. Members of the Federation Council are going to do it at a session, which opens on December 6. It is worth recalling in this connection that at its previous sessions the Federation Council appointed four constitutional judges. If the new candidates are approved, the formation of the Constitutional Court, which has not been functioning for about a year, will be completed. The Constitutional Court should be made up of 19 judges.

Grachev's Rumored 'Purge' of Ministry Apparatus Weighed

MM0112121794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Igor Chernyak: "Grachev Starts Purge"]

[FBIS Translated Text] News of a Boris Yeltsin edict in preparation on a 30-percent reduction in the apparatus of the Ministry of Defense came as no surprise to the apparatus itself. Neither, though, did the fact that three of Grachev's eight (including Burlakov) deputies—Boris Gromov, Valeriy Mironov, and Vladimir Toporov—may be deprived of "their" structures as a result of the purge.

However, according to sources in the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff, the generals can scarcely be represented as some kind of opposition to Grachev. Yes, people recall, one time at a collegium session Mironov expressed an opinion which differed slightly from the minister's opinion. Yes, when he found out about the edict Gromov finally found the courage to state that not everything is as it should be in the air force as regards flight safety. Yes, Toporov is keeping himself to himself, from which all kinds of conclusions may be drawn. But no one in the Ministry of Defense remembers any striking statements on the part of any of the three generals, they have not contradicted the minister, and what is more, they have supported Grachev when decisions were being made. So that if any of them do find themselves in an opposition, then it is a very secret opposition, so deep that it is possible that only they themselves or their wives know about it. This is understandable—in our army there is discipline and undivided authority, and perhaps only the unruly Lebed may disagree with Grachev openly.

Special attention is focused on Boris Gromov, who is represented as the secret leader of the internal opposition in the Ministry of Defense. Indeed, Grachev's hostility toward the former commander of the 40th Army has been known for a long time. Back in October 1993, in an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, Grachev did not fail to report that in the night before the storming of the White House, Gromov turned out to be the only member of the collegium who managed to be one hour late for its emergency sitting—apparently he could not get into the Ministry of Defense building and had to take a roundabout route. (Later, in an interview with ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, Gromov maintained that he was not at this collegium at all). Grachev remembered this. The speech made by Gromov at the trial of the State Committee for the State of Emergency, where he essentially took Varennikov's side, also angered the minister. Indignant about this, Grachev also recalled the notorious "Appeal to the People," which Gromov first of all signed and then withdrew from. And, according to the recollections of officers close to him, the minister was really enraged by the sudden trip Gromov and his wife made to Israel without notifying his chief. Gromov's frequent appearances at lavish presentations, banquets, and restaurants in the company of Kobzon and his friends do not meet with Grachev's approval either. That is possibly why, according to the observations of apparatus staffers, Gromov has for a long time now found himself in a kind of vacuum in the Ministry of Defense, and the "oppositionist's" contact both with Grachev's entourage and with those people who are not aspiring to join that entourage has been reduced to a minimum.

The point is not that everyone in the Ministry of Defense agrees with Grachev. But neither would I call anyone "an opposition." After all, finding yourself in opposition presupposes a minimum of at least occupying your own stance which so some extent or other differs from the official position. But we have not heard anything at all about this.

FCS Chief on Crime, Corruption, Espionage

MM3011152794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Nov 94 p 10

[Interview with Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, by Aleksandr Gamov; place and date not given: "Sergey Stepashin: This Year We Have Caught More Spies Than in the Previous Seven Years. Counterintelligence Chief Speaks about the Fight Against Terrorism, 'Black Tuesday,' the Chechen Question, and Foreign Special Services Agents"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gamov] Sergey Vadimovich, I would have liked to talk about "hot spots" today, but if you look closely the whole of Russia is a hot spot at the moment....

[Stepashin] Of course, if we are talking about the Caucasus, and regions in Russia itself or near its borders where there is shooting and fighting going on, there the situation really is acute. But then, since March I have traveled through 35 krays, oblasts, and republics—the Far East, Sakhalin, the northern and southern areas of Russia, the nonchernozem area.... I would not call them 'hot spots.'

We did not just travel around the country in order to make an objective assessment of the situation in the regions. Personally I cherish these trips partly because, when you meet with people, you obtain inner confirmation that the president's Edict on Combating Banditry is correct. The question was not whether someone somewhere was violating human rights. People spoke to us about other things: Why was the edict not operating fully? When would we stop being soft-hearted, when would we finally understand that mafia gangs, bandit formations, and so on are waging a real war against us, an open war!

[Gamov] Yes, when?

[Stepashin] I agree that the reaction should fit the crime. What is needed is tough measures and unconventional answers, operational and secret service forms of activity for the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] and the special services. But will we ever see any serious changes in our legislation? Although the adoption of the law on organized crime will make it possible from the legal viewpoint to settle the 30 days' custody question which the president introduced in his edict. Time has shown that the decision adopted in December of last year to the effect that the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] should be "purely a special service" has turned out to be premature. At the May conference in which the president participated we returned to this subject and agreed that we would work together with the MVD and the Prosecutor's Office, and, for the most serious crimes, independently.

[Gamov] Your statement to the effect that the names of the killers of Aleksandr Men, Andrey Ayzderdzis, and Dmitriy Kholodov would be named this year seems rather risky and is generating a certain skepticism in society. What is this confidence based on? Do the killers themselves know that you know about them?

[Stepashin] As far as the crimes connected with the murders of Men and Ayzderdzis are concerned, the MVD is working actively to expose them. We are helping them. I would only note that there are grounds here for making big promises.

As for the search for Kholodov's killers, then here your words contain a certain measure of truth. I realize that I took a pretty big risk when I announced the date by which the killers would be found. But on the other hand we have a very serious approach, and here we are also cooperating with the Prosecutor's Office and the MVD. I have determined this task as a top priority for myself and for our entire department.

If you remember, at the end of the 1970's some very serious, unprecedented crimes were committed in Moscow, involving explosions in the subway. And at that time Andropov gave the following task to the whole KGB: Find the criminals no matter what it costs. I do not want to make an analogy here; I would just like to emphasize the seriousness of our approach in looking for the killers. And it is not only because Dima Kholodov was a remarkable guy that the incident has acquired a certain political significance today. Fulfilling an obvious social demand, certain publications made a fuss, using this jesuitic murder of a journalist in order to resume the latest slanderous attack on the counterintelligence service which has already exhausted everyone. The blasphemous methods being used are shocking—the FCS is being groundlessly accused of murdering not only Dima but also its own staffer Mikhail Chekanov, who died tragically trying to defuse the latest explosive device.

It is a matter of honor for the state to expose these crimes and punish the bandits severely.

[Gamov] Does this mean that the FCS organs will work with the same zeal in clearing up other crimes?

[Stepashin] Yes, if those crimes are really connected with terrorism. A presidential edict re-creating an investigation administration within the FCS has already been signed, and the units combating terrorism will be reinforced. We have such structures at local level, and they include bomb-disposal structures. New structures are also being created, notably in Arkhangelsk. Yes, we do intend to work at the same rate in other cases as we are working now in the search for Kholodov's killers. I have in mind first and foremost the creation of joint operation-investigation groups and the use of our sources of information to investigate criminal cases. It is only through joint efforts that we can conquer rampant crime in all spheres of our lives.

This is all the more important now that the election campaign is virtually under way. In the past few days this has been perceived particularly acutely. After all, we spend time in parliament, and we move around in other spheres. And, you know, you get the impression that there is a game with no rules being played.

[Gamov] Sergey Vadimovich, look at it this way: Judging by who is winning the electoral districts today and how they are winning, the question of Russia's future is being raised very bluntly. Even now, both at local level and at the center, politicians and businessmen who are pursuing power, including unscrupulous men without the remotest concern for society's interests, are buying up the mass media. How does all this look from the national security viewpoint? Should the president and all of us not be starting to think about the future in this context? After all, it could so happen that those you are fighting against today will simply buy votes wholesale in the presidential election and come to power, take up residence in the Kremlin, in the Lubyanka....

[Stepashin] I will answer this frankly, and doubtless immediately provoke a barrage of criticism on the part of virtually all political forces pursuing power today. I am not campaigning for the restoration of the Fifth Directorate, which was involved in "political forecasting" in the structure of the KGB in its pure form. God save us from directly interfering in the activity of a particular political party or organization. Although, to be honest, I believe that the organs ensuring internal security in the state should operate at full strength during an unstable transitional period.

I doubt that the State Duma is going to adopt a law or decision making it possible to check future people's representatives as to their decency, state of health, and other things, although this question is a very delicate one.... Take the American example. Why did they once remove an attorney general? Just because his wife went on an airplane trip on her own business at Treasury expense. Why was one candidate for the job of defense secretary "blackballed".... There are a lot of examples like this, and it is normal practice. Only squeaky-clean people can be allowed into power, and particularly onto its pinnacle.

[Gamov] As you have just said yourself, there has recently been another onslaught on the law enforcement organs, including the FCS. The accusations being made against you are probably fair in some ways. On the other hand, does it not seem to you that the reason for this is the tough stance which you have adopted, including your stance on political questions? Maybe that is why someone wants to put Stepashin "out of the game"?

[Stepashin] That is entirely possible. I perceived it in particular after "Black Tuesday" on the basis of articles in the press. But I do not believe that it applies to me alone.

Today I am less worried about the latest onslaught on the FCS than about the attitude to it among the people in my charge. I feel them suffering after every unjustified attack. The FCS today is made up of tens of thousands of decent, honest officers who have experienced three reorganizations in the space of three years. If another blow is dealt to Russia's state security organs, this will be the beginning of a slow disintegration of serious special services.

[Gamov] You have recently been to the Kremlin more frequently than the other "power" department leaders....

[Stepashin] I don't know about the others. I do not look at what they are doing; it is not our "department."

[Gamov] Nevertheless, you have been meeting with the president a lot. Does he support your department's present line?

[Stepashin] Yes, he does, for which I am sincerely grateful to him. When he was on vacation, remember, one newspaper published a report to the effect that we were supposedly going to be joined up with someone else within a matter of two or three days. The president immediately reacted in a tough way. He stated that he would prevent this and that he considered this type of rumor to be a provocation.

My contacts with Boris Nikolayevich are not connected with concern at the situation in the FCS. On the contrary, normal work is going on: a daily report to the president by telephone and weekly meetings with him at which we discuss many questions connected with Russia's security.

[Gamov] At the beginning of the year you and Aleksandr Korzhakov signed an agreement on cooperation between the FCS and the President's Security Service. What is the point of this work?

[Stepashin] We are in touch on a great many issues.

[Gamov] At a recent meeting with the president, Korzhakov was not sitting behind him as usual but next to the "power" ministers. What would that mean?

[Stepashin] The service which he heads has been instructed, just as we have, incidentally, to get involved in ensuring the security of the Presidential Staff and the government. This means that we must also safeguard these structures against corrupt people infiltrating them—people who, on the basis of their moral and ethical qualities, should not work there. Aleksandr Vasilyevich Korzhakov and I are coordinating our work here.

[Gamov] And is it proving possible to safeguard the president against corrupt people?

[Stepashin] I hope so. I am not going to name names.

[Gamov] Were there many of them?

[Stepashin] I would not say so.

[Gamov] And are there any corrupt people left in the Kremlin?

[Stepashin] We will see....

[Gamov] Now let us recall "Black Tuesday." It is said that Stepashin and Lobov had a special stance on what happened, which differed from the stance of the other members of the commission.

[Stepashin] Certain members of the commission did not have a stance at all. But by and large the commission agreed with the report that Oleg Ivanovich Lobov and I signed.

[Gamov] Did the others refuse to sign?

[Stepashin] They agreed with us; it was just that the two of us signed. But that is not the main point. There were subtleties which became public knowledge and were not interpreted entirely correctly.

Certain people are trying to set the FCS against virtually all the commercial banks today. But their leaders should understand the situation in which our country finds itself in today. You can "sink to the bottom" along with Russia with great sacks of dollars and gold won at the exchange. And nothing will save you. There should not just be commercial interest here, but also common sense and an understanding that you are not just an "eminent banker" but also a Russian citizen. Maybe I am speaking in a language that is rather unclear to bankers, but my wife, who worked in the banking system for 20 years, understands me.

[Gamov] Could the FCS somehow have anticipated "Black Tuesday," and... could it insure our economy against any repetition of it?

[Stepashin] I hope that there will be no more Tuesdays like that. Because a lot has already been done to strengthen the position of the Central Bank. But it was doubtless pretty difficult to anticipate the actual day of the collapse; after all, we are only just beginning to work with the banking structures, and the practice did not previously exist in the special services.

[Gamov] All right, everything is theoretically clear as regards that "hot spot." But what are we to do about Chechnya?

[Stepashin] We do not need to do anything! It is a wonderful, beautiful republic. Before, it was Checheno-Ingushetia, and now it is Ichkeria and Ingushetia. By and large, decent people live there; I know many of them personally. They have split, but that is the right of a people. The main point is that Chechnya is Russian Federation territory. Under the Constitution. That is why it is perfectly obvious to me, as leader of the Russian special services, as it is to other leaders including those of the "power" departments, that Russian laws and the Russian Constitution should be in force there. I am deeply convinced that this will be achieved. Particularly since Dudayev himself does not enjoy the support of the majority of the population.

A lot of people are accusing both the president and us of not taking strong measures. Yes, of course, there is no problem from the military viewpoint about bringing troops in there. But I believe that the policy currently being pursued with respect to Chechnya is the correct one. We believe that it should primarily be the Chechen people who should settle the problems in Chechnya. Obviously the center and the Russian leadership will not leave Chechnya in the lurch. Although the specific character of the Caucasus as a whole must be taken into account, as well as the history of mutual relations between Russia and the Caucasus. But despite all that, as director of the FCS, I would like to stress once again that our personnel there are working on Russian Federation territory.

[Gamov] Sergey Vadimovich, what is happening to the presidential draft law on the FCS?

[Stepashin] This draft law was sent to the State Duma back in the spring and was revised by the Security Committee. There are various interpretations of the name of the document, the name of our organ, and so on. But the Law on the FCS was recently given its first reading in the State Duma. You know how its discussion proceeded. (S. V. Stepashin brought an action against one of the participants in the discussion, a Mr. Zhirinovskiy—A.G.)

Today we are more worried about funding for 1995. If we go into the Near Year with the budget that is being proposed, it will be very difficult to get out of the "financial nosedive." That is a problem.

[Gamov] Terrorism, "Black Tuesday," Chechnya.... Do you have any energy left to tackle spies?

[Stepashin] We do catch spies; we have caught a lot this year. More than in the previous five to seven years put together. We have recently gotten rid of all unnecessary complexes and compromises, since we are supposedly the most open of societies. And I believe that we are doing the right thing. The president knows about this, and the relevant states and embassies know about it.

We proceed from the premise that the FCS should not influence the state's foreign policy line. But the appearance of foreign special service agents on Russian Federation territory worries us. We are working very closely with the Foreign Intelligence Service here. After all, nowadays no spy crosses three sets of borders with just a rucksack. The majority of foreign special services fixed-post agents in Moscow are working openly, and we now have completely new forms of mutual relations among the special services.

[Gamov] What forms?

[Stepashin] I will not discuss this subject. There are certain rules....

[Gamov] Do these agents recruit our people?

[Stepashin] Yes, there is active recruitment, and this also means for the big leaders. They buy secrets and so on. Incidentally, our compatriots have become "bolder" here. The material question is not last in terms of importance. Although maybe a lot of them do not understand that they are being recruited. That is why it is important for us not only to catch them but also to conduct preventive work—which, as it happens, we do often and successfully.

[Gamov] I wonder what what the country's counterintelligence chief dreams about?

[Stepashin] Recently I dream about work more and more often.

[Gamov] What specifically? Sittings, the Security Council, the president?

[Stepashin] Various episodes revolve in my head. That is why I do not get much sleep.

Economic & Financial Issues

Yeltsin Exempts Certain Goods From Customs Duty

MM3011134594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Nov 94 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 2108, signed by President Yeltsin and dated 24 November 1994: "On Additional Measures To Stimulate the Development of Production, Including the Raising of Foreign Loans"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to supporting enterprises' investment activity and accelerating the development of national industry, I decree that:

1. Materials, equipment, machinery, mechanisms, and components (with the exception of goods subject to excise duty) imported for the production development of enterprises, institutions, and organizations on the customs territory of the Russian Federation under contracts concluded prior to 1 January 1993 and registered under the appropriate procedure as well as within the framework of the use of loans granted to the Russian Federation by foreign states and international financial organizations shall be exempt from customs duty.

2. The Russian Federation Government shall submit for examination by the Federal Assembly within one month draft legislative acts envisaging the exemption from

customs duty of materials, equipment, machinery, mechanisms, and components imported for the purposes defined in Paragraph 1 of this edict.

3. This edict comes into force from the date of its publication.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[Dated] Moscow, the Kremlin

24 November 1994

No. 2108

Duma's Burkov Assesses Privatization Results

MM0112095394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Nov 94 First Edition p 3

[Interview specially for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA with S. Burkov, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Property, Privatization, and Economic Activity, by Aleksandr Kapkov of the State Duma Press Service; place and date not given: "All Not Yet Lost for Budget. Monetary Privatization Program Could Raise More Money for Treasury"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Privatization proceeds currently account for less than 1 percent of the federal budget. And although, according to figures from the Institute for National Economic Forecasting, only 0.3 percent of state property today has not been affected by privatization, the new program of monetary privatization could raise considerable funds for the treasury. S. Burkov, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Property, Privatization, and Economic Activity, comments on this.

[Burkov] Yes, a considerable number of enterprises—around 106,000—have currently been privatized. The first, voucher, stage ended in July. Consequently, it is entirely right to sum up the results.

According to official State Committee for Statistics figures 35.3 percent of all enterprises remain in state and municipal ownership in all sectors of the economy. So it seems as though a big step has been taken in the direction of public ownership. But, on the other hand, the state form of ownership still accounts for around 54 percent of the total value of fixed capital. Of this amount 37 percent is federally owned, 8 percent is owned by Federation components, and 9 percent is municipally owned. The total value of enterprise assets in state hands can be estimated at approximately 990 trillion rubles [R].

[Kapkov] That is an impressive figure, but the Russian Privatization Center valued the "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company at $230 million on the basis of the results of the check auctions, whereas, according to Britain's THE ECONOMIST, "Gazprom" could be worth $250 billion to $1 trillion. That fact alone reveals a disparity.

[Burkov] The fact is that the size of the incorporation capital and the estimated property value were determined on the basis of enterprises' balance sheets as of 1 January 1994 taking account merely of the revaluation of fixed capital in October 1992. Later another revaluation was carried out. But it was not taken into consideration.

[Kapkov] Why not?

[Burkov] It was thought that the lower the initial cost of the property to be privatized, the easier it would sell. But I do not think that this approach can be applied to monetary privatization. There are investment resources in Russia, and they are considerable. This is not 1992, when liberalization devalued all our assets. Consequently, the more enterprises are privatized at artificially low valuations, the lower the proceeds for the state will be.

[Kapkov] But there is a view that an artificially low striking price can help to bring in foreign capital.

[Burkov] Unfortunately, experience shows that foreign investment in privatized property sold off at an artificially low price is mainly done with a view to subsequently reselling the shares. But this ploy has no direct bearing on the shaping of privatized enterprises' investment resources. And the lower the initial valuation of privatized property, the greater the opportunity for speculation. But the rise in the price of a number of privatized enterprise shares (which were obtained free for vouchers, and are now quoted in hard currency) has been used as an argument of late. But the nature of this process is entirely different. The artificially low value of privatized property has begun to move more into line with real market prices. Understandably, this primarily applies to enterprises in the fuel and energy complex and to sunrise industries such as communications and electronics. Unfortunately, artificially lowering the price of property that is being privatized places Russian enterprises in an undoubtedly disadvantageous position vis-a-vis foreign investors. We should take a look at the list published recently by the Russian Privatization Center of the 500 biggest privatized enterprises.

[Kapkov] Nonetheless, certain hopes are pinned on monetary privatization. The budget will get definite proceeds, and enterprises will get investment.

[Burkov] Of the total value of fixed capital in state ownership around 51 percent could be privatized, including 34 percent that is federally owned. If we assume that state property will be sold off on average at book value, then theoretically the level of privatization proceeds could amount to around R500 trillion, including more than R330 trillion from the sale of federally owned property (in 1 January 1994 prices). And this is without taking account of the monies which could be earned from the privatization of land and real estate. In short, the state still has considerable amounts of property which, in accordance with existing legislation, could be privatized to great effect—provided, as we have already said, the price is not set too low.

After all, the federal budget's privatization proceeds for the first nine months of 1994 were R78 billion. According to a State Committee for the Management of State Property assessment, another R15 billion in privatization proceeds could be obtained in the remaining months (not counting dividends and lease payments). This totals less than 1 percent of the revenue side of the budget. So the treasury cannot count in any serious fashion on proceeds from monetary privatization if the strategy for implementing it is not reviewed.

[Kapkov] What steps does your committee intend to take in this direction?

[Burkov] The privatization program, which we examined this summer, is still worked out on the basis of the conditions of a unitary state. It takes no account of the new realities of the federal mechanisms that are being set up. In this connection we need a new version of the law on privatization. It needs to define general federal conditions for privatization that reflect the prevailing combination of general state and regional functions in administering property. We need to give the regions freedom of action. Freedom that accords with the provisions of the Constitution. Without formulating this freedom many regions will not recognize the Federal Privatization Program. And this has already happened in Moscow City and Moscow, Perm, and a number of other oblasts. And the Altay Kray Legislative Assembly has actually passed its own privatization law....

Unfortunately, the legislative branch has been sidelined from monitoring privatization. One and the same organ—the State Committee for the Management of State Property—determines the conditions for privatization and monitors the progress itself. The law on privatization should formulate norms that ensure Federal Assembly monitoring of privatization and the movement of state property. Only then will we be able to avoid past mistakes.

Panskov Addresses Finance Ministry Collegium

MM3011163394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Nov 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Dmitriy Grafov: "Simpler Taxes, More Revenue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Finance Ministry held an enlarged collegium session in Moscow yesterday on the financial system's tasks in its efforts to stabilize the economic situation in the country in 1995. The collegium session was attended by first vice premier A. Chubays, heads of ministries and financial institutions in the components of the Russian Federation, and representatives of regional organs of executive authority.

Finance Minister V. Panskov noted that the main task in the context of economic policy is the creation of a steady budget revenue base founded on an updated tax system. Updating means reducing the tax burden and simplifying the tax system by abolishing inefficient taxes and payments to nonbudget funds and by abolishing a number of benefits and widening the range of taxable income, and also shifting the tax emphasis from the income of enterprises to the income of private individuals.

The minister called not only for tougher control over observance of tax legislation, but also closer scrutiny of the way budget-allocated funds are spent. Financing of the defense order remains one of the chief problems: This year the military-industrial complex was nearly three trillion rubles [R] short. Money to meet this debt is not provided for in the 1995 budget.

At the same time, Federation Council deputy A. Demichev cited an amazing fact. An enterprise in Kaluga Oblast was instructed to produce an independent power supply unit for an antiaircraft system. The plant bought the expensive equipment it needed abroad, for several million dollars, but did not have time to pay the customs duty before the military went and canceled the order.

Foreign Telecoms Investment Up 40%, Set To Go Higher

MM3011141994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Nov 94 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Telephones Are Profitable Business"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign direct and portfolio investment in Russian telecommunications systems will amount to $500 million in 1994—40 percent more than last year.

Independent experts are predicting that foreign investors' interest will increase in 1995 and, as a result, there will be a lively market in telecommunication systems shares this December. Indirect confirmation of this is the rise in the shares of enterprises in the Leningrad and Moscow Telephone Networks, and the rise in the price of "Rostelekom" shares, which are among the highest-yielding and most reliable on the over-the-counter [vnebirzhevoy] market.

Chernomyrdin Notes Social Security Value in 'Harsh' Budget

LD3011193194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1759 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 30—"The conciliatory commission on the draft 1995 budget will have to perform an uneasy task", Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told TASS on Wednesday.

"The draft 1995 budget is tough, firm, and even harsh, and has much to be thought over", he said.

"We are to define where the major accent must be placed, and what must not be overlooked" in the new budget, Chernomyrdin said. He stressed the importance of social security issues and said the government, "despite any difficulties, tried to maintain this sphere's financing at a sufficient level."

Chernomyrdin also said it is necessary to sharply cut budget expenditures. "We are to contain ourselves and summon up patience. Only this will enable us to achieve stable economy. Scattering funds might prolong reforms for many more years."

The Russian government leader specifically stressed that the conciliatory commission, as well as parliament houses and commissions must thoroughly "reconsider the draft budget." Many items should be "simply revised from the very beginning", including, in the first turn, military, defense, and agriculture. Budget cuts are necessary in some cases, while some items require additional financing, he said.

According to Chernomyrdin, a general approach to budget does not mean "simply cutting certain expenditures." It means "duly distributing funds aiming to achieve a balanced budget", he stressed.

Executive Sees More Hard Times for Coal Industry in 1995

MM0112113594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 30 Nov 94 p 1

["Own information" interview with Valeriy Zaydenvarg, first deputy general director of the "Rosugol" company, by unnamed correspondent; place and date not given: "Horizon-95 Does Not Promise Big Changes"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to preliminary data, Russia will extract 10 percent less coal in 1994 than in lean 1993. A fall in production, although not as wholesale as in other sectors, is being noted in all regions.

What lies ahead? What are the prospects? At RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA's request Valeriy Zaydenvarg, first deputy general director of the "Rosugol" company, answers these questions.

[Zaydenvarg] By all accounts the negative processes which are now typical of the country's economy will continue in 1995. This is a problem of primary importance.

We are currently owed 800 billion rubles [R] by the power industry alone. Plus other sectors' "makeweights".... If they received these sums the miners could achieve qualitative changes in enterprises' activity.

But at the moment I do not see a solution to this problem in 1995, at least in the first half of the year. Investment problems are also closely linked with nonpayments and funding. In recent years we have practically not been bringing new capacities into production, although there are sizable reserves, especially in the East. I can mention, for example, the Luchegorsk open pit, Urgal, the Tugnuy open pit in Transbaykal.... Great resources must be concentrated in order to bring these and other enterprises, as the saying goes, to fruition. According to our estimate this means R500-700 billion.

In the coming year there will be virtually no centralized capital investment in the coal industry. It will be sharply reduced throughout the entire fuel and energy complex. By 40 percent!

Military & Nuclear Issues

Yeltsin Signs Military, Reserve Officer Draft

MM3011101594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Nov 94 First Edition p 1

[Edict No. 2113 of the Russian Federation President "On Drafting Reserve Officers for Military Service in 1995-1996," signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated 25 November 1994, followed by "Appendix to Edict No. 2113 of the Russian Federation President of 25 November 1994"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with Article 19 of the Russian Federation Law "On Military Service Obligation and Military Service" I decree that:

1. The Russian Federation Ministry of Defense shall:

annually draft around 18,000 citizens who have not undergone military service, who have graduated from state educational establishments providing higher professional education, and who are listed in the reserve of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, into military service in 1995-1996 with officer rank, including around 8,000 people directly on graduating from the aforementioned establishments, in registered military [voyennouchetnyy] or civilian specialisms related to the relevant military specialisms in accordance with the Appendix;

post the following numbers of the aforementioned drafted citizens in 1995-1996: around 600, 500, 400, 200, and 50 men respectively to the Border Guard Troops, the Internal Troops, the Russian Federation Railroad Troops, the Civil Defense Troops, and the Government Communications Troops.

2. The Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Russian Federation Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters, the Russian Federation Federal Border Service, the Russian Federation Ministry of Railways Federal Railroad Troops Directorate, and the Russian Federation Presidential Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information shall ensure that the citizens mentioned in Point 1 of the present edict who

are drafted for military service are appointed to posts in line with their registered military or civilian specialisms related to the relevant military specialisms.

3. The present edict comes into force from the day that it is signed.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 25 November 1994

Appendix to Edict No. 2113 of the Russian Federation President of 25 November 1994

List of Registered Military Specialisms for the Drafting in 1995-1996 of Reserve Officers to Military Service and the Number of Citizens Drafted in

These Specialisms

Specialism	Number (of people annually)
Artillery	2000
Motorized Transport	700
Communications	3000
Highway Construction	800
Aviation and Technical	4000
Medical	2000
Financial	300
Legal	1000
Others	2700

Rail-Mobile Missile Duty Seen 'Harsh, Rigorous'

MM3011132594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Nov 94 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Dolinin under the "We Are First with the Story" rubric: "The Secrets of Bershetskiye Dachi"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have already told readers about the rail-mobile missile complex and its technical potential. Today we are going to talk about the people who, for many years now, have been on duty round the clock on these missile "trains." The path leads us to Zvezdnyy, a settlement in Perm Oblast, which is shown on the maps as Bershetskiye Dachi.

It is a beautiful spot. To appreciate the charm of the Ural landscape you only have to recall the movie "River Ugryum," which was shot in these parts. It is no wonder that the missilemen, who set up their base here 30 years ago, have grown fond of fishing and hunting. The only problem is that they do not have enough time for those hobbies. On average they are on combat duty for half a month at a time. And when their shift ends they would rather be with their families and children....

Five years ago, the Ternopol-Berlin Missile Division abandoned autonomous launches [otdelnyy start] and adopted rail-mobile missile complexes. The missilemen refer to this complex by a code name known only to them. In common parlance it is known as a train or, as journalists have dubbed it, a missile-capable armored train. We are talking about SS-24's—Russia's equivalent of the MX missile. In other words, the solid-fuel RS-22, known across the ocean as "Scalpel." Consequently, the rail-mobile missile complex is an armored train equipped with scalpels.

There is no denying that the rail-mobile missile complex is exotic. There is nothing like it anywhere else in the world. In the early seventies the Americans had a similar idea and wanted to base Minuteman missiles on flatcars. But they abandoned this venture. Practical considerations prevailed. But the idea was implemented in our country. It was not left to the missilemen to decide whether it was a good or bad idea. They were not really consulted. The Missile Forces have been equipped with rail-mobile missile complexes for 10 years now. And even though the conditions of alert duty there changed after Shevardnadze's statement when he was foreign minister (that is, train movement was reduced), the attitude toward that duty did not change.

"It is just as responsible here as it always has been in the Strategic Missile Forces," division commander Colonel Aleksey Subbotin said. "It does not matter which complex we are serving in. Our job is to perform our set tasks. Whether that means on trains or in a permanent base. There is no substantive difference."

Alert duty is nothing new to the officers and NCO's and the weaponry is easy to use, even if it is a rail-mobile missile complex. Previous experience has proved useful to those who served in the old missile complexes. They were able to acquire any knowledge that they lacked during three months' training at the Mirnyy test range. The young officers gained their expertise in this work at the Perm Missile School. That is why the commanders, Colonel Nikolay Mokretsov or Lieutenant Colonel Konstantin Gusev, for example, have no worries about the professional training of their subordinates. They have mastered the science of rocketry. Furthermore, combat training in the division may not be perfect but it is taking its course, despite current problems. It is certainly no coincidence that both the spot check and the final check this year did not catch anyone unawares. The division was rated "good" and adjudged combat-capable. That is the main thing.

That rating was earned by these people for whom service in the Strategic Missile Forces even today is prestigious. People such as Lieutenant Colonel Anatoliy Buslayev, unit chief of staff. And Captain Gennadiy Buslayev. The reason they have the same surname is that they are brothers and they could be the start of a dynasty of missilemen.

Incidentally, people at the division think about the future in stages and are already preparing the "replacement" for today's missilemen. A "cadet" class has been launched in secondary school where children are taught computing.

Success in combat work in the rail-mobile missile complex depends to a large extent on the train engineers, which is perfectly understandable. That is why they receive close attention and extra concern. Apartments for their families and kindergarten places are a top priority. And even if their pay is not enough to meet all their needs, they do not go without their fair share. The names of those who drive the trains are regarded with respect. Names such as Captain Sergey Stepanidenko and Senior Lieutenant Vladimir Moryy....

Service in the "armored trains" is no easier for the "passengers" either—there are around 50 on duty in just one train. The command is also concerned for their physical and spiritual welfare. Even though the missilemen criticized me for my previous publication on the rail-mobile missile complex, where I asserted that "everything has been provided for the people who work 'in the train'," it would be wrong to begrudge them their living and working conditions given the vicissitudes of life today.

It is not a holiday camp inside the "train" itself. You only have to look at the command car. There are no amenities for people on duty there. It is packed with equipment. It is a cramped and stuffy place. It is so hot that people work stripped to the waist. There is no room to move in the sleeping quarters either. It is not hard to imagine the life of the mobile missilemen when you consider that they cannot leave their car, there is nowhere to stretch their legs, they are surrounded by the same faces all the time, and their spare time is given to books, videos, the radio, and chess.... Now that the "trains" travel around less often these things have less of an impact. It is easier to organize service and everyday life when you are not on the move.

Colonel Grigoriy Zaytsev, the division's deputy commander for education, also talked with satisfaction about the alert-duty forces' complex building (as they call it) and about the rehabilitation center.... The complex building contains a sauna and rooms for rest and recreation, and a special part of the building has been set aside for servicewomen. The best furniture has been chosen for them.

On the whole I noticed that people at the division try to do everything well, with love. No matter where you look, whether it is at the kindergarten that is under construction, the Culture House, "Uralochka," the soldiers' tea room, or even the division headquarters, everywhere you see comfort, greenery, modern furniture, and carved woodwork. It all looks like the work of an experienced designer. And when I asked who was in charge of all this, they told me: the commander, Col. Subbotin.

Where does the money come from for all these things nowadays? Here I am bound to mention the name of Sergey Fedorovich Zatirko, head of the settlement's administration. A lieutenant colonel of the reserve and former political worker, he begrudges his former military colleagues nothing. With his help an information center is now being set up, imported printing equipment has been bought, and they are even planning to publish their own newspaper.

In short, this is a place where missilemen can serve. But not everyone can stand the "hardship and deprivation." Only the toughest remain.

"It is a kind of natural selection," Col. Subbotin noted. "But on the whole the division's staffing level—both in terms of officers and men—is tolerable."

...The missile "trains" are standing at the former Bershetskiye Dachi. And no matter what associations the previous name of Zvezdnyy conjures up, no matter how wonderful the landscape is in the Urals here, service in the rail-mobile missile complex remains harsh and rigorous.

Russians, Italians Build Newly-Designed Fighters

LD3011212094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1944 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Yakovlev Design Board which celebrates the 70th anniversary of the flight of the first plane designed by Aleksandr Yakovlev announced its plans to develop new combat and civil aircraft.

In particular, a jet trainer fighter is now in the assembly workshop, Design Board head and general designer Aleksandr Dondukov said.

He said that the development of this plane which will be used in the training of military and civil pilots is financed by the Russian Defense Ministry and an Italian company. It will replace Czech L- 39s whose service life is over. The Russian Air Force is expected to need 300 aircraft of this kind.

Dondukov also said that new light Yak-55M, Yak-54, Yak-56 and Yak-112, short- and medium-range passenger and cargo airliners Yak- 42D were manufactured serially and test samples of the Yak-48 executive and passenger planes, developed jointly with Israeli companies, were made.

The Yakovlev design board has developed over 200 types and modifications of planes, helicopters and gliders. Over 70,000 Yak aircraft of various kinds have been manufactured.

'New Method' Proposes Radioactive Waste Burial

MK3011125094 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Nov 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "In Russia" rubric: "New Method of Burying Solid Radioactive Waste"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new method of burying solid radioactive waste has been suggested and tested by shipbuilders at the "Sevmashpredpriyatiye" production association in Severodvinsk. Containers filled with waste are inserted into a power plant bay cut out of a scrapped nuclear submarine which is then welded shut and towed "to its permanent base." The power plant bays will be cut out of several scrapped subs, enough to dispose of all the solid radioactive waste now stored on the enterprise's premises.

Federal Assembly

Duma Speaker Urges Democratic Elections in Chechnya

LD3011103294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1023 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 30 TASS—"Peace and order in the Chechen Republic should be ensured on the basis of the Russian Constitution and laws," Chairman of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin told ITAR-TASS today.

The speaker of the lower house of the Russian Parliament pointed out that democratic elections should be held in Chechnya, and that executive and legislative branches of power should be given a highly legitimate status. "As for the President Dudayev and opposition leaders Avturkhanov, Hentemirov, Labazanov, Khasbulatov and Zavgayev, I believe that each of them will be put in place given to them by the people," Rybkin said.

"There are many signs, including contacts between Duma deputies with representatives of all formations operating in Chechnya, which show that the Chechen people want to have its representatives both in the Federation Council and the State Duma," Rybkin said.

He pointed out that Chechnya should lay down arms in full compliance with the Russian law. "Those who comply with it will be immediately granted amnesty, while those involved in bandit formations terrorizing the population, must be held responsible," Rybkin said.

The Duma speaker believes that efficient economic and food aid should be given to Chechnya. "It is necessary to restore the infrastructure of vitally important facilities in the Republic," Rybkin said.

Rybkin Urges Chechen Clans To Reach Agreement

LD3011140494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1308 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 30 Nov—"We must not allow a tragic development of events in the Chechen Republic," Ivan Rybkin said at a briefing he held today at the State Duma of the Russian Federation. "I do not think that the opportunities for a peaceful resolution of the crisis have been exhausted, and action needs to be taken in that direction," he stressed.

"One would very much wish that the clans could reach some mutual agreement," said the chairman of the State Duma, who believes that those who are pushing for a fratricidal war should "immediately stand aside" and leave Chechnya.

"The people are suffering most of all from this situation, and from this point of view I share the opinion of the president of Russia when he says that the Chechen Republic must ensure legality, constitutional order, and calm," said Ivan Rybkin. He noted that Russian laws are in force on the territory of Chechnya also, and it is on the basis of these that general elections should be held in this Republic, in order to bring the people peace and calm.

Ivan Rybkin called for providing the Chechen Republic with immediate comprehensive aid—primarily economic—especially foodstuffs, fuel, and medicines, indeed "everything which people require in their daily life."

Duma Commission Examines 1995 Socioeconomic Prognosis

LD3011134294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1242 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 30 TASS—The State Duma conciliatory commission on draft 1995 budget held its first session today to scrutinise Russia's socioeconomic prognosis for 1995. The commission was set up on the government's consent after the State Duma refused to pass the budget plan after the first reading last week.

Government representatives and Duma members revised budgetary revenues and spending, in particular addressing the inflation rate, industrial output, dollar's rate to the rouble and minimal wage indexation. The committee also considered feasibility of predicted privatisation and foreign trade revenues.

Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov, one of the commission's cochairmen, said government delegates to the commission would adhere to the cabinet-approved budget concept.

Mikhail Zadornov, another cochairman and head of the Duma budget, taxes, banks and finance committee, said there was a broad ground for consensus over the budget issue.

The conciliatory commission includes governnment members Yevgeniy Yasin, Yakov Urinson and Georgiy Melikyan, and Duma committee chairmen Sergey Glazyev, Vladimir Isakov, Konstantin Zatulin, Vladimir Lukin, delegates from parliamentary factions.

Regional Affairs

Dramatic Increase of Refugees From Chechnya Reported

LD3011144594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1345 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lilia Kuznetsova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 30 TASS—As of today, the Russian Federal Migration Service has registered 76,216 refugees from Chechnya. Such a huge inflow is caused by the long-standing armed confrontation in this rebel republic in the Northern Caucasus.

Refugees and forced migrants from Chechnya now account for six per cent of its population. These are only people who applied to Russia's migration services for the status of a refugee, while the entire flow of migrants from the republic is much higher, according to experts.

Chechnya is the fourth largest supplier of refugees to Russia's regions not affected by war after Tajikistan, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

Grachev on 'Energetic Efforts' To Release Hostages

LD3011152394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev stated on Wednesday that the Defense Ministry has taken "all necessary measure to free and return the Russian citizens taken hostage during combat operations in Chechnya, and to establish whether they belonged to the Russian armed forces," Grachev's aide Yelena Agapova told Interfax.

She said that Grachev had sent a plane to the Mozdok Region (North Ossetia) for airlifting the Russian hostages to Moscow.

Grachev also announced that "through corresponding bodies, energetic efforts are being made to ensure the release of the hostages," and expressed confidence that the hostages' lives were in no danger. After the hostages return to Moscow, an additional investigation will be held to reveal why they found themselves in Chechnya and their possible involvement in the armed conflict there.

Dudayev on Russian POW's, Latest Situation

LD3011163094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1438 GMT 30 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev by correspondent Konstantin Revenko; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] We are interrupting our music program to let you know the point of view of the President of Chechnya Dzhokhar Dudayev on the developments in Groznyy. We hope that you already know the standpoint of the Russian leadership. So let us listen to a recording made by Konstantin Revenko.

[Revenko] What is the situation in Groznyy?

[Dudayev] Rallies are going on throughout the republic. At the square in Groznyy, the bodies of children, women, and old people are being laid out following yesterday's tragedy—that hawks' raid. The consequences of yesterday's raid can still be seen: Many facilities are still burning, and are being extinguished.

[Revenko] What sort of facilities? Are these residential quarters?

[Dudayev] Yes, there were residential quarters, [word indistinct], airports, all the economic facilities in the square [words indistinct] were being destroyed.

[Revenko] Being not just a president but also a military man, can you forecast what will happen and maybe even assess the situation in military terms?

[Dudayev] Well, what can I say? It is open aggression, a most dirty war waged by Russia's political authorities. What else is there to say?

[Revenko] All right. But what about your forecast? What do you expect will happen?

[Dudayev] Russia and its leadership are unpredictable. It is difficult to forecast anything in these circumstances. These are just acts of criminals, these are war and state crimes perpetrated by the leadership, by top political authorities. So you will have to give your verdict. I guess international law has something to say here—but it is not for me to say.

[Revenko] Mr. President, another thing I would like to ask you. We are now sitting in Sergey Yushenkov's [Duma Defense Committee chairman] cabinet, and next door we have the mother and brother of one of those who we saw in the photograph in IZVESTIYA [one of the prisoners captured in the opposition onslaught on Groznyy three days ago]. We have already broadcast an interview with them. The mother, Svetlana Alekseyevna, told us what she had found out about her son from the unit where he had been serving. Could you say anything to her and to all those who are now anxious for those captured.

[Dudayev] I can tell you quite openly that I get the impression that the Russian leadership, which has started this dirty business, this war, do not want these people to get back to Russia, at least not while they are alive. We have taken them to a safe place—what we hope to be a safe place. But now helicopters are circling round that area, and we naturally do not have sufficient air defense capabilities to effectively repulse a raid in that area—even though we are bringing in more forces to prevent any tragedy.

[Revenko] How many people were caught in this situation?

[Dudayev] Quite a lot. Quite.

[Revenko] Is it 60, 70? Could you give a figure?

[Dudayev] Very many.

[Revenko] There was a report that a group of people had been released on the border with Dagestan yesterday evening. Can you confirm this?

[Dudayev] Yes, I can confirm—not yesterday, but the day before yesterday—a group was released. It was reported to me that a group retreating into Russian territory had been detained, together with weapons and armor. They had not engaged in any hostilities and had not done us any harm. Therefore, their conduct and attitude were reported to me, it was said that for 36 to 48 hours they had been observing what had been happening here. They had been shocked by what they had been drawn into and what they had seen. Therefore, we decided not to do them any harm, and let them go their own way.

[Revenko] Can you see any peaceful way out, through negotiations and so on?

[Dudayev] The way of negotiations is the only way we can see, what other way can there be out of this dirty business?

[Revenko] But tell me, can it be done not by telephone but face to face?

[Dudayev] Why not? The image has been created of us here not wanting any negotiations, we here being hawks and murderers. I can tell you that your sons do not want to return home now.

[Revenko] Why so?

[Dudayev] They are afraid. Only if you guarantee both to me and to them that they would not be persecuted and destroyed, only then they may [words indistinct]. It is clear that the Federal Counterintelligence Service and all those who have formed and fabricated these [words indistinct], will persecute them, and their security is not guaranteed. That is what many of them believe.

[Revenko] But will security be guaranteed to those who would like to conduct negotiations, to MPs and probably journalists?

[Dudayev] Full security will be guaranteed. You can have discussions, talk to them. Here they are meeting and talking to dozens of representatives. Just 15 minutes ago they met a delegation from Dagestan. We have correspondents from all over the world, and they are having meetings with them.

[Revenko] Is it physically possible to get through to you by plane or by any other means?

[Dudayev] It is physically possible as far as we are concerned, but it is difficult for us to guarantee you safe passage through Russian troops and air force.

[Revenko] I see. Thank you.

[Announcer] This was Konstantin Revenko's interview with the President of Chechnya Dzhokhar Dudayev, recorded a few hours ago. Now we return to our music program.

Dudayev Interviewed

LD3011191794 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1635 GMT 30 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Chechen Republic President Dzhokhar Dudayev by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dudayev] Our proposals remain the same as before. We do not have to make them. From the very beginning, we supported and still support the negotiations process. But we became guinea pigs, whom they bomb from the air every day and destroy the peaceful population. The bodies of children with their limbs torn off are still lying over there, in the square. Hundreds of meeting with thousands of people are going on, declaring: we shall not leave this square even if we are to perish here. People are prepared to die. Islamic battalions are being formed in every mosque, in every rayon and every village. Members of Islamic organizations from different parts of the world are converging there.

People in the square are demanding that I sanction retaliatory actions on Russian territory. They curse me in their letters for not allowing any retaliatory actions and making them guinea pigs, leaving them to the Russian air raids and tank attacks in the city of Groznyy. Such is the situation. The rest is that the people are united as one, from children to adults. They will not be brought down by bombings. But you can provoke their hatred much further.

[Correspondent] In this situation, will the Chechen leadership be ready for talks with Russia?

[Dudayev] The only path we have chosen is to sit down at the negotiations table and solve all our disputes with the help of mediators who should not be from Russia or Chechnya. We proposed this, and Landsbergis and members of the Lithuanian parliament have been demonstrating their mediation efforts for three years now, as neutral, independent, free mediators, members of the United Nations Organization who are capable of assessing the situation objectively. We can also make a start without mediators—first, discuss conditions for future negotiations. For this, we should just meet, discuss it, and continue [the talks]. On our side, there were never any and are still no obstacles of any kind. And when they say that Dudayev does not agree to any talks, it is bullshit, pardon me, and sheer bluff.

[Correspondent] Who among the Russian leadership is the president of Chechnya prepared to meet now?

[Dudayev] I personally am not burning with a desire to meet any of the Russian leaders after this vandalism. There are members of the government—I am not the one to make all the decisions here. I am neither God nor king. I am just a victim that the people chose and I have to bear the entire burden myself. We have the government. It has to be established on which level the talks should be held—who, where, when, and what the talks should be about. We have no need to invent anything—the basic principles of initiating, conducting, and completing negotiations have been practiced on our planet for many hundreds and thousands of years. There is no need to invent anything new here.

[Announcer] When asked his predictions about the further development of events, Dudayev answered very harshly:

[Dudayev] Russia is unpredictable. Judging from its actions, the Russian leadership is impossible to analyse, assess rationally, or forecast. Therefore, it is difficult for me to judge what they have in mind. Everyone does whatever he feels like doing at any moment. I think they can even decide to use special weapons.

[Correspondent] And lastly, what is the Chechnya leadership's reaction to the proposals to introduce a state of emergency in Chechnya?

[Dudayev] There is no one here who can introduce the state of emergency. I introduced martial law here already on 25 November. And only I have the right on behalf of the people and the state to introduce any regimes here. So, we should not soften things down from martial law to a state of emergency. We already have martial law from 25 November, so that you will know this and not provoke us anymore.

Moscow Still Hopes for Peaceful Chechen Settlement

LD3011153594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow still hopes that the conflict in Chechnya will be settled peacefully, a source in the Russian leadership told Interfax on Wednesday. According to him, a major condition for this is the complying with the demands expressed in President Yeltsin's address to participants in the conflict: cease fire, lay down arms, disband all armed units, free all the captives.

"The resignation of Dzhokhar Dudayev and, possibly, his departure for a Middle East country would be conducive to resolving the situation," the source pointed out. According to him, one such country has already agreed to receive Dudayev and his family.

With reference to a likely scenario for events in Chechnya, the expert said: "it is feasible to form an interim administration, whose task would be to stabilize life in the republic and launch preparations for holding free and democratic elections."

"In my view, such preparations could take from four to six months," the source said.

In comments on the possibility of a military operation in Chechnya, the source said that it would be "extremely undesirable." Nevertheless, he pointed out, "the Russian leadership certainly has a right to conduct it, since the Republic of Chechnya is an integrated part of the Russian Federation, and it is a duty of any country's authorities to ensure the safety of its citizens and compliance with the legislation existing on its territory."

Official Denies Planes Attacked Chechnya From Stavropol

LD3011153194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1500 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Stavropol, 30 Nov—Neither planes nor helicopters flew either from Stavropol Kray or via Stavropol Kray in the direction of Chechnya on Tuesday [29 November], Valeriy Oliyanchuk, chief of the press service of the kray administration, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He made this statement in connection with claims by Groznyy that the strike yesterday against the town's suburbs was carried out by combat aircraft that took off from a Stavropol military airfield. Thus, he went on, the statement to the effect that the kray's leadership "bears responsibility for such actions" is also absolutely groundless.

Such remarks, Oliyanchuk stressed, can only be described as provocative and aimed at exacerbating still further an already extremely heated situation in the North Caucasus region.

Air Strikes Confirmed

LD3011163594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1613 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 30 Nov—This afternoon, 16 aircraft carried out bombing raids against Groznyy and Naurskiy Rayon. Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev informed ITAR-TASS of this by telephone. According to him, there are numerous cases of damage and casualties as a result of the raids.

Sources in the Provisional Council, whose headquarters is in the settlement of Znamenskoye in Nadterechnyy Rayon, confirmed for ITAR-TASS that there have been raids on Groznyy.

Council press secretary Ruslan Martagov, however, told ITAR-TASS that the helicopters and aircraft of the Provisional Council have mounted several air strikes only on places where armored vehicles, artillery, and strongholds of Dudayev's units are concentrated. In addition, without specifying the number of aircraft taking part in the raids, Ruslan Martagov noted that strikes were mounted on Groznyy airport, whose landing strip was, in his words, "effectively destroyed."

Chechen Leadership Forms Delegation for Talks With Russia

LD3011181994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "The Chechen leadership has formed a delegation for talks with Russia and is prepared to start a dialog to settle the conflict right after a similar proposal comes from Moscow." This statement was made on Wednesday in an exclusive telephone interview with Interfax by Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

At present, said Dudayev, "several helicopters are hovering over Groznyy en route to the site where captives are being held custody. Dudayev said that the captives had been moved outside Groznyy to provide for their safety." He said that Chechnya "is prepared to guarantee safety of the Russian POWs."

Dudayev also has information that 15 ground-attack planes and 40 helicopters are about to take part in a raid on Groznyy. He did not specify where he received the information.

Armored Vehicles Accumulated in N. Ossetia Near Chechnya

LD3011182194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Armored vehicles are being accumulated in the Chermen Village of the Prigorodnyy Region near the North Ossetian-Chechen border and the Rostov-Baku highway leading directly to Groznyy, an Interfax correspondent reports. Local observers said a significant quantity of tanks had appeared near the military command department.

At the same time, a representative of the interim administration told the Interfax correspondent that "troops are not being moved in the state of emergency zone."

Interfax learned that more Ingush refugees had been fleeing from Groznyy. People are leaving their houses preferring to wait till the danger is over in Ingushetia.

Caucasian Confederation President on Chechen Conflict

LD3011182494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples Musa Shanibov told Interfax that he welcomed the Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko's statement that the Russian Security Council had given preference to peaceful settlement of the Chechen conflict. "The Russian troops' involvement in the Chechen conflict will undoubtedly cause a new Caucasian war," he said.

He said that President Yeltsin's Tuesday warning about the possibility of introducing the state of emergency in Chechnya, if the warring parties did not lay down arms and disband armed formations within 48 hours, aroused a strong response in the Caucasus. He also said that "spontaneously formed groups of volunteers" were making their way to Chechnya to help Dudayev.

Shanibov emphasized that the Confederation leaders were taking measures to prevent the escalation of the conflict.

To quote Shanibov, the Confederation will hold an emergency session in Nalchik on December 4 to discuss the situation in Chechnya and work out the Caucasian people's single position on it.

He also stated that he was planning to get in touch with all of the Caucasian leaders to learn their position on ways of settling the Chechen crisis.

Yeltsin Appoints Yegorov as Representative to Chechnya

LD3011172794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1637 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 30 Nov (ITAR-TASS) Boris Yeltsin today appointed Russian Nationalities and Regional Policy Minister Nikolay Yegorov as plenipotentiary representative of the president of the Russian Federation in the Chechen Republic. This is according a decree the text of which was today handed over to ITAR-TASS by the president's press service.

Russians Polled on Firm Action in Chechnya

LD3011190894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1656 GMT 30 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Up to 40 pct [percent] of Russians are ready to support President Boris Yeltsin if he acts firmly in settling the Chechen crisis little short of imposing a state of emergency there, according to the latest poll conducted by Interfax news agency's service for social and political forecasts among experts on the problems of the Northern Caucasus. However, 36 pct will oppose the idea with the rest being undecided.

Attitudes to the proposed measure are close to neutral in central and northwestern Russia with 52 pct saying they would not object to it. However, 82 pct of local Cossacks and 92 pct of residents of southern Russia bordering on Chechnya said they would favor the imposition of emergency regulations in that republic.

In Chechnya itself, opinion is divided on the question of support for President Dzhokhar Dudayev and the idea of the republic's independence from Moscow. Experts say only about half of the population is firmly in support of Dudayev and his slogan of national independence. 30 pct of city residents in Grozny and low-land Chechens were opposed to Dudayev's policy before Yeltsin's appeal to the people of Chechnya. The idea of any war in the republic itself or neighboring regions or launching terrorist attacks in other parts of Russia is opposed to by 93 pct, 95 pct and 94 pct respectively.

72 percent think the imposition of emergency regulations followed by sending government troops or security forces to Chechnya may culminate in the installation of a regime loyal to Moscow but unpopular on the ground.

The likelihood of a civil war involving the Russian army is estimated at 56 percent. 48 pct of experts think this scenario of events carries the risk of hostilities being spread on to neighboring republics.

The survey indicates that only 38 pct of Chechens are likely to welcome any Moscow-installed regime. However, other experts put even this figure to question.

If for one reason or other, no state of emergency is imposed in Chechnya, the probability of the present status quo persisting is estimated at 64 pct, that is, when there is no legal recognition of Chechen independence with Moscow refraining to meddle in the republic's internal affairs. But there is a 55 pct chance that Moscow may end up with a more acceptable option of installing a regime loyal to Russia and enjoying support on the ground.

Speaker of the Federation Council (the upper house of Russian parliament) Vladimir Shumeyko said that the National Security Council meeting on Tuesday gave preference to peaceful ways of settling the regional conflict out of all scenarios on offer. At the same time, the press service of the Russian president said Yeltsin has ordered that concrete measures be worked out to restore peace and democracy to Chechnya. Many say the question is one of concrete instructions given to the defence and interior ministers in the event of Chechnya's refusal to back down to Yeltsin's ultimatum. Speaking after the Council meeting, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said the government had all the answers to questions arising in the wake of heightened tension in Chechnya.

Many do not rule out a confrontational scenario of events following Dudayev's response to President Yeltsin's address. The Chechen leader who expressed regret over Yeltsin's announcement of a possible imposition of emergency regulations there told Interfax that "if so, this will mean war which is already going on". "The Chechens will never renounce their independence even in the face of Russia's military might", he said.

Interim Council Supports Yeltsin's Demand on Weapons

LD3011175794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 30 Nov—The interim council of the Chechen Republic fully supports Boris Yeltsin's demand that weapons should be handed in within 48 hours, and gave the Russian leadership the assurance that "it would not have any problems on that score." At the same time, as ITAR-TASS was told today by Ruslan Martagov, press secretary of the Interim Council, "the council's leadership believes that the Russian president's statement was at least three years late."

The government of national trust described the Russian president's appeal to the participants in the armed conflict in Chechnya as a "sharp and angry warning." A statement by this government-in-exile, which reached ITAR-TASS today says: "We are convinced and we hope that at the final moment Russia's President Boris Yeltsin will make the most sensible decision to ease and normalize a most grave situation for our people who are the main hostages of these events."

Chechnya's President Dzhokhar Dudayev in turn, after having told ITAR-TASS, that he had never refused a dialogue with Moscow, at the same time, called for those guilty of today's raids on Groznyy to be prosecuted. These raids have caused numerous fatalities and a great deal of destruction.

'No Panic' in Groznyy; Dudayev Supporters Armed

LD3011185094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1731 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 30 Nov—[passage omitted] According to a report from ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev in Groznyy, no panic is being observed in the town, despite the raid. Many inhabitants have already succeeded in taking women, children, and elderly people to mountain settlements, and they themselves have returned to the town and, evidently, will join the ranks of Dudayev's supporters. Judging from today's speeches at a rally in the center of Groznyy, at which the latest raids were evaluated as the beginning of an aggression, many inhabitants of the town are ready to rise in its defense, bearing weapons.

According to unconfirmed reports, today, too, aircraft of unknown origin dropped weapons on parachutes to Dudayev's supporters in the area of the settlement of Katayama.

Chechen 'Government-in-Exile' Leaving for Groznyy

LD3011191894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1758 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Suprun and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow 30 Nov (TASS)—The Chechen Parliament and Government of People's Confidence, now sitting in Moscow, are shortly to leave for Groznyy, Chechen Parliament Speaker Yusup Soslanbekov told a news conference here on Wednesday.

"At this crucial moment, when Chechnya's fate is at stake, we must stay together with our people", he stressed.

Soslanbekov placed the blame for the Chechen crisis with "Russian hardline forces that are interested in fomenting war in the northern Caucasus". According to him, there are "certain structures" in the Russian Government hampering the efforts of Chechen people to break the gridlock on their own. Moscow's gravest mistake is that it has chosen to count on Chechnya's Provisional Council headed by Umar Avturkhanov, the speaker said. This choice made any compromises virtually impossible.

Soslanbekov warned that if Russia sends its troops to Chechnya under whatever pretext, this will not only further exacerbate the situation in the republic, "making its consequences unpredictible", but will also launch the second Caucasian war. Other Caucasian peoples will certainly get involved in this war, he emphasised.

Even if Dzhokhar Dudayev is ousted or killed, this will not affect the choice made by the Chechen people in favour of freedom and independence, the speaker said. "The freedom of the Chechen people is not merely a whim of its leaders, but historic necessity", he stressed.

Commenting on Dudayev's appeal to the Muslim world leaders for support and assistance, Soslanbekov said the Chechen president must have meant "diplomatic and moral" support rather than assistance with fighters and weapons.

Dudayev's Advisor Says Groznyy Bombed Again

LD3011205794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1944 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, the Chechen capital, suffered two air attacks today, Dzhokhar Dudayev's Advisor Movlen Salamov told Interfax on the phone.

Salamov said four pairs of SU-27 jets had carried out the first air attack. It was hard to define the number of jets during the second air attack in the darkness, he added.

Salamov said the jets had been mainly bombing the outskirts of the town as the air defense did not let them approach the center of Groznyy.

Salamov said the air attacks had resulted in numerous casualties killing up to 80 people and wounding about 100 people. Independent sources did not confirm this information to Interfax.

Chechen Official Denies Plans To Assassinate Yeltsin

LD3011201894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1948 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 30 TASS—Following reports in some Russian mass media about allegedly plotted attempt on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's life, the Chechen top security official said he did not rule out this possibility.

Sultan Geliskhanov, head of the Chechen State Security Department, told TASS that "certain political forces in Russia are devising a stage-by-stage plot aiming to remove Boris Yeltsin from the political scene and place the blame on mythical Chechen terrorists".

Colonel Firsov Denies Units Put on Alert

LD0112082894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0340 GMT 1 Dec 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone conversation with a Slavyanka correspondent, Colonel Yakov Firsov, head of the North Caucasus Military District press center denied reports by a number of news agencies alleging that the district's troops have been put on combat alert.

He said that all North Caucasus Military District units were staying put where they were deployed on a permanent basis and that they were going about their run-of-the-mill, everyday activities.

Slavyanka also received similar information from the Russian Ground Troops press center.

INTERFAX Cited on Air Raid on Chechnya Airport

LD0112082294 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Reports from Chechnya say that this morning an air raid has been carried out on the Republic's airport. An INTERFAX correspondent was told at the headquarters of President Dudayev's armed forces that three aircraft took part in the raid. Their model cannot be defined because of darkness. No casualties have yet been reported. [passage omitted]

Chechen Spokesman Says 30 Russian Aircraft in Groznyy

LD0112085194 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0830 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The headquarters of the Chechen armed forces told INTERFAX today that at 0100 this morning three unidentified airplanes had carried out an air strike against the republican capital of Groznyy. There are no reports of casualties. In addition, the headquarters spokesman claimed that there are now 38 An-12 transport aircraft with Russian servicemen and combat hardware in Beslan.

Correspondent Says Situation 'Calm' in Groznyy

LD0112095294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0914 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 1 Dec—[passage omitted] According to reports from Groznyy, the town is so far calm and there is no panic. Many residents have already managed to take the women, children, and elderly out to mountain villages, but have returned to town themselves, evidently to fill the ranks of Dudayev's supporters.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent in Groznyy did not confirm the reports about a night-time raid on Groznyy reported by some of the mass media. According to his information, the night passed relatively quietly, though shots could be heard intermittently.

Chechen Opposition Ready 'To Lay Down Arms'

LD0112100294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0929 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Znamenskoe December 1 TASS—The Chechen opposition is ready to lay down arms and fulfill all other demands of the ultimatum of President Boris Yeltsin which expired this morning. Leader of the Provisional Council Umar Avturkhanov informed the Russian leadership about that, Spokesman of the Council Ruslan Martagov told TASS on Thursday [1 December].

However, he added that the council failed to adopt the final decision on the issue late on Wednesday because of "a lack of quorum". No official statement was issued as a result.

Situation in Groznyy Reported 'Alarming'

LD0112101394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0934 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 1 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The situation in Groznyy, which today looks like as a frontline city, remains alarming. There are many armed people in the streets. Additional fortifications are being built and guns and antiaircraft guns are being installed in various parts of the city.

A rally is continuing in front of the presidential palace. The recent air raids on Tuesday and Wednesday considerably increased the number of Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters. Judging by the speeches at the rally, the fact that Boris Yeltsin appointed his representative in Chechnya, which was announced in Moscow on Wednesday, has imparted a new impulse to anti-Russian feelings.

The fate of Russian soldiers and officers taken prisoner in Chechnya remains unclear. It appears that the State Duma delegation, which is expected here, will have to hold talks in extremely difficult conditions. Groznyy claims that in neighboring regions, specifically Stavropol Kray and Volgograd Oblast, Chechens are being arrested in order to be exchanged for captive Russian citizens.

Last night was relatively quiet in the city, there were no new air raids. Electricity supplies are cut off in many areas of the city, but gas and water supplies have not been interrupted.

Yeltsin Envoy To Seek Support of Chechnya Cossacks

LD0112111094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0952 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Dec—Nikolay Yegorov, plenipotentiary representative of the president of the Russian Federation for Chechnya affairs and minister of nationalities affairs and regional policy, and his first deputy, Aleksandr Kotenkov, have been in the area of armed conflict in the Caucasus since 26 November. In the middle of this week Yegorov returned to Moscow for 24 hours to inform Boris Yeltsin about the situation in and around Groznyy. The ITAR-TASS correspondent obtained this information from a competent source in the Kremlin.

Both Nikolay Yegorov and Aleksandr Kotenkov were involved in drafting the appeal of the Russian president to the participants in the armed conflict in the Chechen republic. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this at the Ministry of nationalities affairs and regional policy.

Nikolay Yegorov plans to take part in a 3 December Yessentuki session of the Council of Atamans of the Union of Cossacks of Russia, where he will express his position on a settlement of the situation in Chechnya. Nikolay Yegorov is a former head of administration of Krasnodar Kray, knows the Cossacks' mood well, and evidently is counting on enlisting the support of the Cossacks in achieving a settlement of the Chechnya conflict.

More on Russian Paratroopers Arriving in Beslan

LD0112113594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1039 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 1 TASS—Official Groznyy claimed on Thursday [1 December] that Russian paratroopers had arrived in the north Ossetian city of Beslan which is situated 120 km away from Groznyy.

Employees of the Russian State Duma Committee on Defence who contacted Movlen Salamov, an aide of President Dzhokhar Dudayev, quoted him as saying that 27 Russian military transport AN-12 planes brought the paratroopers to Beslan overnight.

"At the same time Salamov said that nobody had left the planes so far", a spokesman of the committee told TASS.

According to Salamov, the Chechen airport and the settlement of Shali where a tank regiment is based were bombed on Thursday morning by SU-27 planes. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

Troops Ordered To Move Closer to Chechnya

LD0112115094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mayak learned from well-informed sources in the Russian Defense Ministry about the ministry's decision to deploy a small number [neznachitelnyye], as the source put it, of troops and equipment of the North Caucasus military district in the area of Mozdok [near the Chechen border]. Their task is to ensure protection of communications, to prevent acts of sabotage and banditry, and if need be to rebuff detachments of fighters arriving from adjacent territories or armed formations moving outside Chechnya. If a state of emergency is introduced, the small number of troops and equipment are instructed to assist the Interior Ministry's internal troops.

The source noted that the deployment of the small number of troops and equipment of the North Caucasus military district should be completed before 14 December.

State Duma Deputies Discuss Prisoners in Chechnya

LD0112165294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1632 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy December 1 TASS—A delegation from the State Duma (lower house of the Russian legislature) met on Thursday with Chechen Vice President Zelemkhan Yandarbiyev and Foreign Minister Shamsetdin Yusef.

The delegation, headed by parliament defence committee chairman Sergey Yushenkov, has arrived in the Chechen capital to negotiate the fate of Russian citizens taken prisoners during the last weekend opposition's abortive assault at the presidential palace.

Scheduled for today is also Yushenkov's meeting behind closed doors with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, parliamentarian's aide Nail Irtuganov told TASS.

Meanwhile, Dudayev's supporters rallying in front of the presidential palace, demand that one Russian prisoner shall be executed after every new air strike at Groznyy.

For the past two days there were several air strikes at bases of Chechen Government troops. The Groznyy authorities insist that the warplanes belonged to the Russian air force whereas the Russian army command flatly denied any involvement in those attacks.

North Caucasus Leaders Criticize Ultimatum

MM3011165194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by correspondent Anatoliy Stepovoy, under general headline "Chechen Conundrum," on replies given by leaders of North Caucasus republics to question concerning the situation in neighboring Chechnya: "North Caucasus and Language of Ultimatum"]

[FBIS Translated Text] How are events in and around Chechnya viewed by the leaders of the North Caucasus republics, its nearest neighbors? The following people answer this question, put to them by IZVESTIYA correspondent Anatoliy Stepovoy:

Vice President of Ingushetia B. Agapov:

"Personally, I am put on my guard by Yeltsin's ultimatum. The paths of a peaceful political process for the Chechen republic are by no means exhausted. A considered persistent dialogue with the participants in the conflict should have been conducted. Since Russia is a big and strong country it does not have the right to give in to provocations by upstarts and imposters.

"You get the impression that Boris Nikolayevich is being set up and pushed into resolute actions. Maybe a mistake has been made which it will be hard to get out of.

"The language of ultimatum is not for the North Caucasus. The Russian leadership has worried about the Chechen problem for three years, and it should have waited another 10 months for the term of Dudayev's presidential powers to run out. Then the problem would have ben resolved on its own. Certain Chechen politicians are pursuing power in Groznyy on board Russian tanks. They have no other method of reaching the political pinnacle. The Chechen parliament and leadership have asked President Aushev of Ingushetia and me to act as mediators in the talks with Russia. Aushev is currently conducting talks in Moscow and I am conducting them in Nazran, and keeping in touch with him and Groznyy."

Dagestan Supreme Soviet Chairman M. Aliyev:

"Such complex questions are not settled by ultimatum. Only political means are suitable here. I understand that this is complex and painfully difficult. But any other methods are liable to result in even greater difficulties. The sides must be forced by political means to lay down their weapons and sit down at the negotiating table and find a peaceful way out of the crisis. But no action must be taken in support of either one side or the other. The Chechen problem cannot be settled by strong-arm methods."

G. Cherkesov, Kabardino-Balkaria government premier:

"These are my neighbors. These are their own affairs. I cannot answer your question any more fully."

Moscow Sets Military, Diplomatic Offensive Against Chechnya

MK0112105094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Igor Korotchenko under the "Army" rubric with general headline: "If Decision Made Was Not Rescinded at the Last Moment, Deadline for Russian President's Ultimatum to Warring Sides in Chechnya Was Up Last Night; a Military Operation Is Supposed To Have Been Launched on all of Republic's Territory. Forces Concentrated Are Such That Can Manage in 72 Hours To Present Russian Federation Council With Fait Accompli of Restored 'Constitutional Legality' in Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin has demonstrated to the country and the world that he is once more in fighting trim. Without waiting for the expiry of the deadline set by the president of Russia for disarming the warring sides in Chechnya, a group of fighter-bombers made a preemptive strike at airfields where Dzhokhar Dudayev had concentrated aircraft of his small air force. As many people know, Russian Federation Defense Ministry official spokesmen have denied media reports about the defense department's involvement in the air raid. The existing air traffic control system, however, rules out chances of the unmonitored presence in the Russian sky of unidentified aircraft, which, in such an event, are intercepted by the air defense forces on duty and are either forced to land or are downed. The more so because it involved warplanes that theoretically could have dropped their bombs on Russian towns in the Northern Caucasus rather than on Groznyy environs. Therefore, to whom they belong has been clear all along. As for the targets engaged from the air, their selection attests to the fact that the Kremlin has firmly resolved to prevent chances of the Chechen president's leaving Russia by air. Motive one: Dzhokhar Dudayev has considerable assets in banks in Great Britain and Switzerland and, finding shelter in a Muslim country, he could arrange for continuous supplies of arms and ammunition to his supporters in the Caucasus. By noon, 30 November, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Russian Federation Defense Ministry virtually fully agreed on plans for imminent actions.

The Russian side has more than enough forces to provide for a military operation to block the state of emergency area and destroy the combatant Chechen forces. The brunt will be shouldered by a group of Internal Forces of the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs and units of the Northern Caucasus Military District. In storming Groznyy, special subunits of the Main Security Directorate also are to be committed to action, their main mission being the capture of General Dudayev and his close associates. Plans calls for intensive use of attack aviation and helicopter gun ships to suppress the strongholds and weapon emplacements in the mountainous country.

If need be, military transport aviation planes are ready to airlift to the Northern Caucasus additional contingents of troops, material and technical supplies around the clock. The upcoming developments will be the first real test of readiness of the mobile forces, to create which Pavel Grachev has expended so much effort and time. Characteristically, transport planes taking off from Moscow's "Chkalovskiy" military airfield are equipped with gear to fire decoy flares to disrupt "Stinger" portable antiaircraft missile homing systems if Chechen fighters fire them at Russian planes.

Moscow has secured consent from Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze on the complete sealing of the Chechnya-Georgia border in order to prevent support for Chechen forces by Caucasus volunteers. In exchange, Tbilisi has been guaranteed Russia's support on Georgia's territorial integrity issue. Russian ambassadors in the Muslim countries of the Middle East and North Africa have received encrypted messages from Smolenskaya Ploshchad directing them to meet with local political leaders and caution them against the provision of all types of aid to Dzhokhar Dudayev, although this issue was already raised in one form or another during Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's recent Middle East tour.

Chechnya: Aide Says Dudayev 'Confident'

MM0112104594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 1 Dec 94 pp 1-2

[Reports by Vadim Karpov and Aleksandr Danilkin under the general heading "...In Chechnya They Are Giving Out Weapons": "Hello, Groznyy!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday we contacted Aslanbek Dadayev, deputy director of the CHECHENPRESS state news agency, in Groznyy, by telephone. This is what he said (information as of 1300 hours Moscow time):

[Dadayev] A rally in defense of the Republic is continuing in the square. Home guard detachments are being set up in all population centers—in settlements, villages, and mountain hamlets.

[Karpov] What weapons are being given out to the population?

[Dadayev] Automatic weapons and grenade launchers.

[Karpov] How is the opposition behaving?

[Dadayev] At present it has ceased combat operations. The situation in Groznyy? The main staff has reported that 12 MIG-23 aircraft overflew the city and strafed it Tuesday [29 November]. Precisely during Dudayev's news conference. Did you see it on television? Aircraft also flew last night and dropped illumination flares over Groznyy.

All the windows in buildings in the city center have been broken. The streets have nearly been cleared of knocked-out hardware. Women, old people, and children are being evacuated. This is to be completed toward evening.

[Karpov] To where are people being evacuated?

[Dadayev] To mountain settlements. Farther away from Groznyy.

[Karpov] It is being said that pogroms have started in houses and apartments where Russians live.

[Dadayev] This is not so. There have been no acts of violence. Russian women, children, and old people are being evacuated along with everybody. The adult Russian-speaking population remains in the city together with Chechens.

The stores are functioning. The market too. Prices have gone up but remain acceptable. Enterprises which ensure Groznyy's vital activity are continuing to function.

[Karpov] Where are the Russian prisoners?

[Dadayev] In the basements of buildings. Incidentally, an interrogation is being shown on television now.... A pause. A question to one of the prisoners. "What punishment do you deserve under wartime conditions?" "Death." "Are you ready for this?" "Yes...."

...I cannot say when or how the prisoners will be released. I do not know.

The agency has just been brought an appeal by the Chechen Republic Council of Elders to soldiers' mothers and wives of Russian servicemen. It reads:

"...We beg you to recall your sons, brothers, and husbands from the carnage in the Caucasus. Also take away those who have been captured. We do not need war—we need peace."

This is what we were told by telephone:

Movlen Salamov, aide to the president of the Chechen Republic:

"The situation in the republic is everywhere under control, with the exception of a few villages which have been occupied by Russian troops. The opposition has been completely routed, and it only remains to catch its leaders and their personal guard—measures are being taken to do this.

"The situation in the city is calm but, according to our data, two Russian air raids are expected. Following the 29 November raid, the next night an attempt was made to land a landing force. Despite the cold, foggy night, people got up and prevented it. The Chechen Armed Forces shot down one aircraft and two helicopters, but our air force cannot counter the modern Russian aircraft.

"However the situation develops further, the people of the Chechen Republic are ready to defend autonomy and sovereignty at the cost of their own life. The Russian prisoners are OK. They have sent a statement to the State Duma, Yeltsin, and the Russian authorities, as well as a kind of appeal to the Russian people. The appeal will evidently be duplicated in the Duma. It has been signed by 14 captured officers and soldiers.

"President Dudayev feels all right and confident, and so do we. If another landing force flies in, we will fight."

Movladi Udugov, leader of the foreign broadcast radio information service:

"Groznyy is preparing for air raids. The whole population has taken to the streets. Armed posts have been set up in cities and villages. All opposition groups have suddenly vanished, as though they had never existed, and bandit formations are gathering in the settlement of Znamenskoye—on territory occupied by Russian troops.

Practically all women and children have now been taken into the mountains from Groznyy, and only armed men remain. The family of the president himself is in the city, at home. I deem it necessary to remind Russians that official Groznyy has not carried out and has no intention of carrying out any terrorist acts in Moscow."

Moscow Chiefs Put Government Institutions, Militia on Alert

MK0112110094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 1

[SEGODNYA report under the "Regime" rubric: "Moscow Bracing for Terrorist Acts"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Article includes following boxed passage]

Telephoned telegram

Quite urgent!

In connection with the directive of the Moscow Government, a 24-hour alert status for chief officials at all government organizations and institutions of Moscow will be introduced from 0000 on 30 November 1994. Please pay particular attention to the security and access and entry regulations at institutions in your jurisdiction. In accordance with the Moscow Government directive, you are requested to advise chiefs of these institutions of this measure.

You should be prepared at any time to carry out emergency repair and other contingency work.

[signed] Yevgeniy Kistanov, chief of the Moscow Civil Defense Staff, 29 November 1994 [end of boxed passage]

At 2000 on 29 November an emergency meeting of chiefs of all key departments and institutions of Moscow was held at the Moscow City Hall; it was chaired by Boris Nikolskiy, first deputy premier of the Moscow government. The meeting was held behind closed doors. The main item on the agenda was efforts to ensure security in the city in connection with the deterioration of the situation in Chechnya and the possibility of terrorist acts and provocations in Moscow. [passage omitted]

Once the meeting at City Hall was over, an urgent secret telegram signed by the chief of staff of Moscow Civil Defense was sent to all operational subunits, and also departments and institutions of the city. All participants in the meeting were warned about the confidential nature of this information. They were recommended to advise interested persons of the Moscow government decision only in private conversations.

At 2130, all subunits of the Moscow Internal Affairs Main Administration [GUVD] were put on alert. Those who went home were returned "pending a special directive." Alert status at the GUVD calls for the enhancement of all operational services, a 24-hour readiness of vehicles to move militia reserves around, and reinforced street patrols. Under a separate directive, transport militia subunits will proceed with ensuring security at railway stations, airports, and other installations according to special procedures. All GUVD units on duty, particularly their weapons rooms, will be closely guarded. All the city's supply systems will be placed under enhanced control. [passage omitted]

Igor Nadezhdin, press center chief of the Moscow Health Department, said that he is aware of the Civil Defense staff phoned telegram, but he attributed it to the upcoming cold season. At the same time, he stressed that all operational services have long been working according to special procedures.

At the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry, they said that all operational and duty services of the ministry have switched to an enhanced mode of operations. But they also emphasized that apart from that, no extra measures have been taken because the Emergency Situations Ministry works in an emergency reaction mode all the same.

As a matter of fact, your SEGODNYA correspondent was told at the Moscow Civil Defense Staff, from which the stern telegram actually originated, that they have not heard of such a document and that it in fact could not exist (apparently complying with the regime of strictest secrecy). Approximately the same was said at the Moscow Administration of the Federal Counterintelligence Service. [passage omitted]

Chernomyrdin Agrees to Nizhniy Novgorod Tax Proposal

LD3011212594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2014 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has agreed to the proposal by Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov on the need to introduce a provision entitling the government to conduct a tax experiment in one of Russia's regions in the taxation legislation. Chernomyrdin made this statement at a meeting with officials of the Nizhniy Novgorod region administration in Moscow Wednesday. The meeting was devoted to the recent conference on the prospects of economic reforms in Russia in the Kremlin.

Chernomyrdin expressed his readiness to introduce relevant amendments to a package of draft laws on the perfection of the taxation system submitted for consideration by the State Duma.

Chernomyrdin also supported the proposal by the Nizhniy Novgorod region administration on the need to simplify the taxation of small-sized business. The administration proposed that individual entrepreneurs should only purchase a patent for commercial activities from the local authorities, while enterprises should pay only the income tax and salaries instead of a variety of taxes which exists now. "Nothing dispirits the Russians today as much as the imperfect taxation system," Chernomyrdin pointed out.

Chernomyrdin decided to discuss the region's experience in implementing agrarian reforms at one of the next government meetings calling the stage-by-stage perfection of the taxation system and agrarian reforms the cabinet's main goals.

Chernomyrdin said that a government meeting usually held Thursdays will not be held tomorrow.

International Affairs

Kiev Requests UN Help To Find, Free Detainees

LD3011171694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1630 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Svitlana Artemenko]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kiev [no dateline as received]—[passage omitted: seven Ukrainian peacekeepers taken prisoner]

Volodymyr Handohiy, head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine International Organizations Directorate, told UNIAN today the ministry so far had no information on the whereabouts of the Ukrainian servicemen, but Ukraine's permanent mission to the UN was taking the necessary steps, sending a note to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and a letter to the deputy secretary general for matters of peacekeeping operations, requesting personal intervention to release the detainees.

Staff at the permanent mission of Ukraine to the United Nations have been instructed to approach the Security Council with a request to examine at its next session the situation that has come about. The respective instructions have also been given to Vadym Prymachenko, Ukraine's consul-general in Belgrade.

Marchuk on 'More Flexible' Russia Policies

LD3011133694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1240 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev November 30 TASS—"Ukrainian- Russian contradictions cause huge economic damage to Ukraine first and foremost," it is believed by Ukrainian First Vice-Premier Yevheniy Marchuk, leader of the Ukrainian delegation, which is taking part in the elaboration of a comprehensive treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two countries and in the preparation of several other important agreements.

"The treaty could have been signed long ago if the Ukrainian side had made compromises," he told a press conference here today. In his opinion, "Ukraine should pursue a more flexible policy, because Russia is its principal creditor." Today, Ukraine's debt tops 4.5 billion U.S. dollars. It grew more than 4-fold this year. Ukraine must "work with Russia on new principles. It should accept the Russian rules of the game, provided they do not cause any harm to the national interests of Ukraine," Marchuk believes. He said that the friendship treaty was practically ready to be signed. Twenty other agreements, relating to cooperation in the border regions, customs regime, dual taxation, free-trade regime, and fuel for Ukrainian nuclear power plants are now on the drawing boards. He believes that some of them will be signed even before Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine.

"The Russian side is also evincing a desire to promote closer cooperation with Ukraine," Marchuk stressed. "We must not miss our chance, because Russia can find other partners in many areas. Russia is our vitally important neighbour," he added. Marchuk referred particularly to the "zero" version agreement with Russia on the external debt of the former USSR. Ukraine stands to lose something from this. "But in losing something, we stand to gain some other things. Our debt of 10 billion U.S. dollars will be annulled," Marchuk said. This is not a completely settled matter yet, but Marchuk believes the Ukrainian side should agree to this proposal. "If we stick to our 'heroic stance,' we shall lose everything. We must look at things realistically. If Ukraine chooses to make no compromises, Russia will no longer need it after three or four years," Marchuk stressed.

Finds 'Common Ground' in BSF Division

LD3011144394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev November 30 TASS—Yevheniy Marchuk, first vice-premier of Ukraine, who is heading the Ukrainian delegation at the talks with Russia on the division of the Black Sea Fleet, believes that by commenting on the course of the talks in the press the Russian side has violated an agreement on their confidentiality.

At today's news conference he said the "early reports in news media may do damage to the negotiating process."

According to Yevheniy Marchuk, Ukraine has no law on stationing of foreign troops, and this circumstance is "putting the Ukrainian side in a risky position."

On the other hand, there is an agreement saying all that is stationed on Ukrainian territory is the republic's property.

At the same time the Russian side lays down new terms of the division of the Black Sea Fleet. First of all, this concerns the stationing of the Russian part of ships. The first vice-premier of Ukraine informed that the Russian side insisted on Sevastopol to become the chief naval base. In addition, the naval bases in the ports of Kerch and Feodosiya must also belong to Russia. Ukraine cannot agree to this, Yevheny Marchuk pointed out.

"I do not think the talks have come to a deadlock. We have found common grounds on many issues. Simply the problem of the division of the Black Sea Fleet must be tackled by politicians but not by the military," the head of the Ukrainian delegation stressed.

Moroz Visits Poland, Discusses Privatization

LD0112015294 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2245 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Asked about his attitude toward privatization and, in particular, the privatization of land, Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz, at the head of a parliamentary delegation of Ukraine, told a meeting with representatives of the Ukrainian community in Poland: "Why does no one ask if the State of Israel, where land is not for sale, or Holland, for example, where land can only be sold or bought exclusively from the state, are democratic? Land cannot be sold. Otherwise, we will live on land that is not ours.

"Because of our present situation worldwide with the concentration of production among the greatest, one should act carefully. A huge, 80 percent chunk of our production is not independent, with an almost 100 percent dependence on energy carriers. We have no currency of our own. The dollar exchange rate is in a mess.

"I want a state to exist, and I believe Ukraine will feed the world in the future. Economic reform and privatization, including land privatization, are our problems. We will tackle them in the manner best suitable for Ukraine. I support those communists who wish the state to be strong. As for the economy, it is subject to control all over the world, except that controls differ.

"One should now struggle for the state, rather than for power".

Pinzenik on Russian, Turkmeni Gas Transit

LD0112112094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1000 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev December 1 TASS—Ukraine is not going to block the transit Russian and Turkmenian gas, delivered to Europe across its territory, First Vice Premier of Ukraine Viktor Pinzenik said at a meeting with Italian, German and Dutch diplomats accredited here. He pointed out that, despite the crisis situation with energy carriers in the republic, Ukraine will meet all its commitments with regard to the gas transit, a spokesman for the press centre of the Ukrainian government told BUSINESS-TASS today.

Pinzenik brought up this subject in connection with publications in some European newspapers about Ukraine's alleged intention to block the gas, transported across its territory, and channel it to its own gas storage facilities.

National Affairs

Kuchma Submits Draft Power Reform Bill

LD3011214394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2039 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev November 30 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma submitted a draft law "on power" to the parliament on Wednesday, which intends to put a final stop to the Soviet-power epoch in Ukraine.

The Council of Regions declared for the draft law and described it as a corner-stone in the block of reforms intended by the president, Presidential Press Secretary Mikhail Doroshchenko said.

Heated parliamentary debates are predicted. The parliament will pass the draft law only on condition that it does not contradict the active constitution, Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz said.

The draft law does not meet this requirement. It provides for cardinal changes: Under the bill, parliamentary functions will be confined to law-making, whereas the president will be at the head of the executive branch of power as a whole, and form the Cabinet personally.

As provided in the draft law, the established power distribution system must be altered. The draft law contains several other provisions which curtail parliament's powers, including its dissolvement. However, the president is entitled to disband the parliament under the active Constitution, too.

Kuchma repeatedly stated that he would not like to resort to extreme measures.

According to Kuchma, he has "a powerful instrument" - people's confidence in him. If the parliament rejects the draft law on power, a nation-wide referendum will be held in Ukraine.

People's Deputy Kosiv on 'Hope,' 'New Trend'

WS3011160394 Lvov Television Network in Ukrainian 1710 GMT 26 Nov 94

[Interview with Ukrainian People's Deputy Mykhaylo Kosiv, member of the Supreme Council Presidium, by People's Deputy Yaroslav Kendzior, in the Lvov Television studios in Lvov—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Kendzior] The Supreme Council Presidium primarily reflects the views of the left wing of the legislature. Do you believe that the president will overcome the resistance of the leftist majority in parliament and its advocates in the Cabinet of Ministers to implement tangible reform in Ukraine?

[Kosiv] All the main principles of lifting Ukraine out of crisis suggested at the Supreme Council by our president, undoubtedly give ground for hope. In general, hope is the kind of substance that dies last. I believe that there is hope. We have analyzed in great detail, very meticulously, the basic principles suggested by the president and we have the impression that he is on the right track. It is no longer possible for the state to control all those areas, which were controlled in the past, and which the left wing of the legislature is urging to control now. It is absolutely evident to everybody that state property in its current form is very exposed to endless acts of embezzlement. At this point, state property is good for one thing—looting. This is abnormal. We must put an end to that. Property must have an owner. Market reform suggested by the president can boost production and then, we will be able to increase the living standards of our compatriots.

Will the parliament stand in the way of this kind of reform? So far, I can see that both the Presidium and the Supreme Council chairman, as well as the left wing of the legislature, are yielding to the president's resoluteness. A very interesting trend has developed in the Supreme Council. In the past, the Rukh, Statehood, and Reform factions scared the three leftist-centrist groupings represented by the Unity, Interregional Deputies' Group, and Center factions. We scared them, given that the latter factions primarily comprise non-Ukrainians—either Russians or Russian-speaking deputies. Our national ideas, our national radicalism repelled them. However, they have recently realized that communists, too, are not appropriate partners for them. You remember that due to our agreements they did not block....

[Kendzior, interrupting] That was the first very significant victory.

[Kosiv] People representing our wing used to demand that the Supreme Council be disbanded. The left wing is demanding that now. I attended a session of the Supreme Council Presidium on 25 November, and all of them—socialists, communists, agrarians—hollered as one that the Supreme Council is unable to function and should be dissolved.

[Kendzior] This was expressed in the statement released by the Bloc of Leftist Factions, which claims that nationalists have merged with the new bourgeoisie and given rise to the class of the Ukrainian nationalist bourgeoisie, supported by the president and cabinet. However, I am happy with the new trend—although the next round of by-elections for the Supreme Council did not take place in a majority of constituencies. Yet even those nine deputies who were elected, testify to a certain trend. One ardent member of the Ukrainian Communist Party came to the parliament, three deputies representing the Ukrainian Republican Party, and the rest are nonpartisan and will probably join the three centrist factions. The breakthrough in our society is becoming evident. Besides, the large group of lawmakers which at the beginning of the session helped the left wing elect the Supreme Council leadership—we demand that it be replaced now—gives hope that a noncommunist majority may be formed in the parliament and grant legislative support to our president's intentions. Incidentally, I spoke with Lvov Oblast Council Chairman Mykola Horyn earlier today. I asked him about his impressions from the U.S. visit; he was a member of the Ukrainian delegation which accompanied President Kuchma. He said that it was a pleasure to see the behavior of the Ukrainian president. Thus, I believe that the electorate, the Ukrainian people, believe once again that our state will survive and things will get better.

Kuchma Names Syvulskyy To Finance Ministry

LD0112104494 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2245 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The president has signed the following decrees:

Dmytro Andriyovych Hermanchuk has been relieved from the post of first deputy head of the State Committee for the Coal Industry in connection with his transfer to other work.

Pavlo Volodymyrovych Yumashev has been relieved from the post of deputy head of the State Property Fund of Ukraine at his own request.

Mykola Ivanovych Syvulskyy has been appointed Ukraine's first deputy minister of finances.

Businessmen, Officials Meet, Discuss Reform

WS0112095194 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 25 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by Larysa Datsyuk on meeting of representatives of small and medium-sized businesses with Ukrainian Supreme Council Deputy Chairman Oleh Dyomin; place and date not given: "The Speaker Did Not Come"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting with the Supreme Council chairman—planned by representatives of national small and medium- sized businesses—has been held...without Oleksandr Moroz. Participants in the meeting were at first informed that the Supreme Council chairman would arrive later, however, he did not come at all. Supreme Council Deputy Chairman Oleh Dyomin and a few people's deputies were present at this meeting. The conference was held because representatives of top-level authorities were present.

The meeting began with discussion of an appeal to the Supreme Council chairman from representatives of national small and medium- sized businesses and their trade unions. The document contained a short description of the socioeconomic situation in Ukraine and supported the presidential reform program.

Representatives of small and medium-sized businesses in Ukraine offered specific assistance in implementing this program to the top- level authorities—including the Supreme Council—and put forward a series of demands, the implementation of which could remove the flawed and instable legislation impeding the development of private business. Their primary demands are as follows: A package of laws—a legal basis for the establishment and development of the non-state sector of the economy—should be developed and implemented; legislative norms impeding the development of entrepreneurship should be repealed; the moratorium on conducting privatization should be abolished; appropriate laws regarding the establishment of non-state insurance companies and pension funds should be adopted; restrictions on the right of working collectives to use social consumption funds should be abolished; and so on.

After the text of the appeal was adopted, the businessmen—who are looking jointly for a way out of the critical situation in which the national economy has found itself—did not only complain of their current misery, but also put forth their specific proposals, suggested a few ideas, and discussed them.

For example, L. Biryukov, general manager of the "Ukrkonsulting" Association, described how the association chooses partners for mutual cooperation among private small and medium-sized businesses in Ukraine.

The "Ukrkonsulting" Association, for example, has signed preliminary agreements with representatives of German, Dutch, English, and U.S. companies which are ready to cooperate with Ukrainian businessmen in such economic sectors as the processing and light industry, machine-building, transportation and pipelines, construction, and municipal services.

The association has established a competitive commission to assess the attractiveness of investment projects and implement them.

S. Yufa, chairman of the "Merkuriy" Consumer Association, spoke about specific privatization problems, which, in his opinion, are especially important on the eve of conducting the total privatization in Ukraine. Having analyzed the privatization of housing—this process has, virtually, been completed in Ukraine—he deemed it unfair and discriminational. S. Yufa is convinced that—unless principles of conducting privatization are revised—unfairness will be repeated by the state when it privatizes enterprises and land.

A. Kozlov and V. Kachkovskyy, who were among the first cooperators in Ukraine, have voiced similar opinions: Given the current situation, they would have never launched their businesses. When their businesses were standing on their own feet, they had to pay only a 3-percent tax on profits. Taxes, however, have virtually strangled producers of late. Subsidies to the agonizing economy have let loose the fly-wheel of the economic crisis, generating innumerable parasites and hangers-on who are unable to manage production.

"Why cannot a businessman apply for state aid? Why cannot the workers—employed by private businessmen—earn more than the workers who are only registered at state-owned enterprises but do not produce anything?" the businessmen asked.

"Where are the enormous credits—granted to Ukraine to support entire economic sectors—which we have not received?"

O. Soskin, deputy director of the World Economy Institute, provided answers to these and other numerous questions trying to explain how we allowed for such a life. An excellent speaker and outstanding economist, he showed that the lasting experiment on the people—conducted by communists—which has led the nation to the abyss is the primary reason for all our current disasters.

Responding to a question as to what type of society we are building—this question is often asked at various kinds of meetings—the researcher answered: "A society ruled by private property and based on the principles of Christian moral norms. The entire world, which has built such a type of society, can prove my words true."

O. Soskin stressed that we—having chosen the path of market reforms—are going to live as normal people live. The Cabinet of Ministers, however—implementing the president's program—has begun to implement it from the wrong end. It should not have begun with the liberalization of prices, but rather from the change in the system of taxes, wages, and foreign economic activities. Having freed prices, the cost of labor should have been liberalized as well, it should have been transformed into a commodity. A two-fold increase in the amount of money in circulation over three months—given an overall decrease in commodity production—cannot happen in a society where everything is for sale. The economist is convinced that the people are being predatorily robbed. The Supreme Council communist majority has charged Yuryy Zvyahilskyy, former member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, of this robbery, thus charging the social system as well.

People's Deputy O. Kuzhel said that, to her regret, the Supreme Council chairman has not heard these opinions.

"We, as like-minded people, should not convince one another about things that have already been proven through international experience," she added.

Land Reform Edict Open for Legal 'Blocks'

WS3011152394 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 18 Nov 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Land in Ukraine Will Become a Commodity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The long-awaited presidential edict "On Urgent Measures To Accelerate Land Reform in the Sphere of Agricultural Production" was finally made public on 14 November. In accordance with the provisions of that document, land in Ukraine can be sold and purchased, as well as presented, inherited, exchanged, and mortgaged. The bodies responsible for land distribution are to divide lands transferred for collective ownership into plots (shares) without their physical allotment.

The fact that separate shares will not be allotted does not mean that plots cannot become the property of individual citizens. Each member of a collective farm (cooperative, enterprise, or association) is to receive a share certificate in which the size of their share will be specified in both conventional cadastre hectares and in terms of their commercial value. They can also be granted their shares for establishing farms (the edict does not allow a change in the planned destination of land plots). The size of plots granted to individuals as private property cannot exceed the norms fixed by Ukraine's Land Code for Farms. Thus, in accordance with the presidential edict, large latifundios cannot emerge in Ukraine.

The document does not properly regulate another issue—whether foreign citizens have the right to become private landowners in Ukraine. Point 4 of the document stipulates that land can be sold to Ukrainian citizens. However, this "insignificant" detail has already thwarted a number of promising joint ventures with foreign companies and citizens.

Another problem remains unresolved by the edict despite the president's resoluteness with regard to land privatization. The document signed by him demands that four enforceable acts be passed by the legislature. Judging by the Supreme Council's anti- privatization sentiments, it will not be easy to lobby those acts. That is why there is hardly anyone who could positively predict that Leonid Kuchma's initiative will not be blocked by the lawmakers.

Crimean Prime Minister on Visit to U.S.

954F0442A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Nov 94 p 1

[Oleg Glavatskiy report: "We Went Not To Sell Ukraine, but To Attract Resources To It and To Derive Some Benefit From This"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **A.R. Franchuk, prime minister of the Government of Crimea, held a news conference for journalists of the Crimean news media, at which he shared his impressions of the state visit of a delegation of Ukraine to the United States that took place from 19 through 23 November.**

It was a 16-man delegation. Departing for the United States together with Ukrainian President L.D. Kuchma were the ministers of economics, finance, defense, foreign economic relations, and foreign affairs and other officials. The regions were represented by the leaders of Lvov and Dnepropetrovsk Oblasts and also Crimean Prime Minister A.R. Franchuk.

The visit was conducted according to a very tight schedule. The day's work began at 0700 and went on until 2245, and this was still not enough. L.D. Kuchma addressed various audiences on 51 occasions, A.R. Franchuk, on 12 occasions. Altogether, the prime minister said, 14 documents of vital importance today for Ukraine, Crimea, and other regions were signed as a result of the trip. They included an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes, a joint statement by the presidents of the United States and Ukraine on cooperation aimed at establishing supremacy of the law and the fight against crime, a joint statement on the development of trade and investments, a financial program, and others.

A.R. Franchuk emphasized that pleasant feelings were evoked merely by the fact that the Americans know about Crimea, are interested in many joint programs, and are seeking cooperation. The prime minister observed that the Americans displayed particular interest in regard to our shipbuilding, instrument-making, and motor-vehicle manufacturing. A whole number of orders could be placed at our enterprises even today. The trans-Atlantic participants in the negotiations were attracted also by our agriculture, including questions of seed supply and fruit and vegetable processing and, naturally, our wine-making.

Of course, Crimea has its own plans and counterproposals in regard to what we need. There are most realistic prospects also in the creation of a new airline—New York-Kiev-Simferopol—and there were interesting discussions of Crimea as a recreation zone, and at some meetings the hosts were shown a video about Crimea. Many proposals on developing resorts and investing money in the construction of hotels, health centers, roads, and communications of the republic, with their development to the world standard, were expressed also.

A.R. Franchuk observed that at the meeting between the Ukrainian delegation and U.S. President Bill Clinton, which lasted three hours, he was told of Crimea's natural advantages, about our people, outstanding specialists, and excellent physicians, and about our affairs, which are in a calamitous state. On the basis of the results of this interview the U.S. President gave the U.S. secretary of commerce and the leaders of the energy and treasury departments specific assignments. It was emphasized repeatedly at various meetings in the discussions concerning our agro-technical complex that under the abundant natural conditions that Crimea enjoys, a far larger harvest may be obtained, but after the storage and processing of the gifts of the earth and selection work has been organized.

Responding to a question concerning the actual amounts promised to Ukraine by the United States, A.R. Franchuk cited an overall figure of $900 million. But he emphasized the need for a serious acceleration of the reform of the economy. Of the planned investments, it is contemplated spending only 40 percent in the state structures.

The Crimean prime minister observed that although the Americans are very interested in our republic, knowledgeability is, nonetheless, lacking in many respects. It got to be amusing at times—questions about the capital of Crimea. So A.R. Franchuk's personal contacts with the U.S. Treasury secretary and the leaders of the departments of industry [as published] and energy and a whole number of businessmen will undoubtedly be beneficial. There were pretty good contacts also with the mayor of New York, whose experience in handling municipal problems—from food imports through, if you'll excuse me, garbage removal—could prove very useful. Franchuk observed that it is essential to continue the contacts that have been made for literally the cream of the crop has been assembled in America—in trade and in management and in science.

"To my amazement," the prime minister emphasized, "the Black Sea Fleet issue did not come up at a single meeting. The Americans have an abiding faith in Ukraine, in Kuchma, that the state will necessarily achieve stability."

During the flight to the United States A.R. Franchuk had a great deal of contact with the Ukrainian president, and it was ascertained from the conversations that Leonid Danilovych has a fine attitude toward Crimea, which he bolstered with a specific suggestion: "Organize in Crimea a test range of the good things that you observe in the United States."

L.D. Kuchma also has a positive view of the development of Crimea's contacts with other regions of the CIS, with Russian regions in particular. A Crimean delegation trip to Russia is being prepared, as A.R. Franchuk explained, for December, on the subject of which the prime minister of Crimea has had a number of interesting talks with representatives from the entourage of the Russian president.

Returning to the results of the trip to the United States, A.R. Franchuk described projects of the greatest interest for Crimea, concerning, specifically, alternative energy sources.

The Crimean prime minister emphasized that the visit to the United States could hardly be called a trip for credit: "Money may be given once or twice, but we have signed an enormous package of documents and laid a splendid foundation for further constant cooperation and the establishment of productive contacts. It was, possibly, the high level and concrete businesslike frame of mind of the delegation coupled with the concerned attitude of the United States toward Ukraine that served as the reason for the organization of a reception of a level that the present U.S. Administration had accorded only the leaders of three states: South Africa, China, and Russia. And now Ukraine. "Although," A.R. Franchuk observed with a smile, "two or three state delegations a day, just about, arrive in the United States. Clinton, however, devoted a whole day to the delegation of Ukraine!"

The Ukrainian delegation's visit was covered in detail by American newspapers and television. But the visitors derived much of significance from contact with the Americans also. Prime Minister A.R. Franchuk emphasized particularly that those that believe that Kuchma and Franchuk went to sell Ukraine are fundamentally wrong: "We went not to sell but to establish cooperation, attract resources, and derive some benefit from this. We have lost, squandered, and fumbled a great deal, but our people have—no less than the Americans—everything. But we need to cooperate!"

Crimean President Espresses 'Gratitude' to Duma

954F0448A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Nov 94 p 1

[Letter from Crimean President Yu. Meshkov to the chairman of the Russian State Duma]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation,

On behalf of the people of Crimea, I express profound gratitude to you, the faction leaders, and the entire State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for the unanimous statement adopted in connection with the Ukrainian Supreme Council decree concerning the development of relations between the Crimean and Ukrainian supreme councils.

Your statement confirms once again that Russia is not indifferent to the fate of the Republic of Crimea and its compatriots, and all attempts to deprive the people of Crimea of statehood contrary to their wishes strike a painful chord in the hearts of Russians. Crimeans understand that all disagreements should be settled in civilized, peaceful, and contractual fashion.

We are grateful for your understanding that the negotiations between Russia and Ukraine should be conducted with the participation of a delegation of the Republic of Crimea.

I, as president, for my part, and, I am sure, the Supreme Council of Crimea, relying on your assistance and support, will do everything within our power to find positive, constructive compromises.

With profound respect,

[Signed] Yu. Meshkov, Crimean president, City of Simferopol

General Lopata Stresses Army's Problems

LD3011163694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1325 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Volodymyr Ivakhnenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—"The Armed Forces of Ukraine are battle worthy but the state of the Army is critical. If the state does not invest the relevant funds into the Army for their upkeep then it will be forced to use the reserves that are kept in the event of war," said Colonel General Anatoliy Lopata, the chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces' general staff, in an exclusive interview to UNIAN on 30 November.

In his words, the priority for Ukraine's Defense Ministry is to determine the Army's requirements in terms of technical maintenance, manufacturing weapons, and the training of highly qualified cadres for the Army. Lopata also stressed that the most pressing problem was to maintain the aviation's battle worthiness, which, because of economic difficulties, particularly with fuel, has been deprived of the opportunity to conduct planned flights. As a result of this, first class pilots are losing their qualifications.

In the chief of the general staff's view, Ukraine's imperfect legislation has led to a situation where conscripts find it easy to avoid army service, which results in "the poorest stratum of the population" joining the Army, which also negatively affects battle worthiness.

Miners End Strike, Official Promises 'Statute'

MM0112105994 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 30 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Georgiy Dorofeyev: "Unlimited Wages"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Donetsk—It so happened that new Ukrainian Coal Minister V. Poltavets arrived in Donetsk on the day when the strike began in the Donbass. He had a conference with general directors of production associations, directors of coal enterprises, and miners.

The minister stated that he intends "in no circumstances to allow a fall in production in 1995-96." In order to solve this problem he is planning to carry out an audit of all mining stocks in the near future. According to Poltavets' estimates, 47 of the sector's mines can no longer be rescued by any amount of capital investment.

Poltavets expressed the opinion that the Ukrainian Supreme Council must adopt a Ukrainian Mining Statute "as quickly as possible."

A delegation of representatives of mining collectives returned from Kiev following talks with the government and reported back on the trip's results. They decided to call off the strike, because restrictions on setting consumption fund norms for underground workers have been lifted. This means that miners at working and preliminary faces will be receiving as much as they can earn.

Belarus

Lukashenka Adopts Parliamentary Election Law

LD3011193994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1754 GMT 30 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Pokrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Parliamentary elections will be held in Belarus on the basis of the majority system suiting President Lukashenka. In accordance with the law adopted on Tuesday, parliamentary elections will be held in one-mandate electoral districts on the basis of general, equal and direct suffrage and secret ballot.

Lukashenka had warned earlier that he would not approve the alternative draft providing for holding parliamentary elections on the basis of the proportional-majority system and party lists. Thus, the election opportunities of the Belarusian political parties, most of which oppose the president and his course, have been considerably limited. IF Note: Lukashenka told Minsk residents recently that none of the current leaders of political parties and movements wanted to help him. "All of the Belarusian political leaders oppose the president," he said. "The national- radicals of the Belarusian People's Front travel all over the country, setting the population against the president," said Lukashenka. The same destabilizing course has been adopted by the communists and representatives of the forces defeated during the presidential elections.

The parliament-approved law gives the right to nominate candidates to the supreme bodies of political parties and public movements, worker groups, the staff of specialized secondary and higher educational establishments, conferences of electors in the places of residence, and army units. Election blocs shall nominate candidates, belonging to the political parties which are members of the blocs.

The spending related to the preparation and holding of parliamentary elections shall be borne by the state within the limits approved by parliament.

The number of electoral districts have been reduced from 310 to 260.

Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Aleksandr Abramovich told Interfax that as the powers of the current parliament would expire on March 4, 1995, the deputies should hurry to fix the date of parliamentary elections. Such a date was not fixed on Tuesday.

Poll Shows Lukashenka Support, Financial Status

LD3011211594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1944 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belarussian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, who won presidential elections this summer, enjoys electors' support, according to an opinion poll conducted by the analytical center of the Interfax Belarussian unit. If presidential elections were held now, a total of 20.2 percent of those asked this question on the streets of Minsk would cast their ballots in favor of the current head of state.

According to the poll, a total of 14.1 percent of respondents would vote for the former parliamentary speaker, Stanislav Shushkevich, 10.8 percent for the leader of the opposition Popular Front, Zenon Poznyak, 8.7 percent for the former prime minister, Vyacheslav Kebich, 4.3 percent for the chairman of the Popular Accord Party, Gennadiy Karpenko, and 1.4 percent for the secretary of the Communist Party, Vasiliy Novikov.

Estimating their economic position, 13.4 percent of those asked said they often have to borrow money, 29.6 percent said their salaries hardly lasted until the next pay day, but they do not borrow money, 37.9 percent said they had to economize on cloths, while they had enough money to buy food. A total of 16.7 percent of respondents said they had enough money for both food and cloths but found hard to buy furniture and other things, while 1.4 percent said they had "enough money for everything, including furniture, but they could not buy a car." A total of 1.1 percent said they could afford themselves to buy a car, summer cottage or bungalow.

Chyhir, Zaveryukha on 'Flexible' Trade Policy

LD3011211894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2015 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian Government intends to create a federal customs council in order to carry out a more flexible customs policy, especially towards the CIS countries, Russian Vice Premier Alexander Zaveryukha said during his meeting with Belarussian Premier Mikhail Chyhir in Minsk today.

Zaveryukha said the CIS needed further integration. He also said he believed that the customs tariffs must be regulated, especially in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Chyhir said that Belarus was in favor of as close cooperation as possible. He said that "we could not survive without each other." He said Belarus had a large potential in cattle-breeding but the majority of the industry's capacities were not used now. He said Belarus could produce more meat and export it to Russia but this would require importing Russian feed.

He said he regretted the present situation both in Belarus and in Russia when, in particular, Russia was importing up to 70 percent of food products thus supporting foreign farmers and leaving its own agricultural producers frustrated.

Zaveryukha arrived in Minsk today in order to participate in the meeting of the CIS Inter-Governmental Council on Agricultural Complex.

The council will discuss the agricultural policy and the implementation on the economic reforms in the agricultural complexes of the CIS countries on December 1. The council will also discuss cooperation for fighting with pests and vegetation and animal diseases.

BZV Official on Russian Intelligence 'Control'

WS3011135394 Minsk SVABODA in Belarusian 29 Nov-5 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by A.K.: "Moscow Does Not Like BZV Activities"—first paragraph published in boldface]

[FBIS Translated Text] As Mikola Statkevich, leader of the Belarusian Association of Servicemen [BZV], told a SVABODA correspondent, Military Counterintelligence of the Belarusian KGB is actively working against the BZV.

Mikola Statkevich said that although this came as no surprise to him, he recently spoke with a "counterintelligence staffer," who told him that "although Belarusian counterintelligence officers do not want to work against the BZV, the Russian intelligence, which controls us, is working against you."

As the BZV learned, people of non-Belarusian origin occupy 80 percent of key offices in the military counterintelligence services.

Kokaraw on Company Share Sales To Repay Debts

WS3011135894 Minsk SVABODA in Belarusian 29 Nov-5 Dec 94 p 5

[Report by SIM: "Shares for Moscow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **By 1 December Belarus should present to Russia a list of enterprises whose shares will be used to repay our debts. This was reported by Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister V. Kokaraw at a news conference.**

According to him, the government has already presented the Russian side with a list of companies, in which Russia could have shares, but the proposal has not satisfied the Russians. By 1 December the government is supposed to prepare a new bid, including property that might be interesting to Russia. The deputy prime minister noted that the Russian side is primarily interested in petrochemical plants, gas and oil pipelines, and electrical companies that previously worked for the defense industry. According to V. Kokaraw, the Belarusian Government is going to sell the Russian side shares in our companies to partially repay our debts for energy sources. As of today, Belarus owes Russia $460 million—$420 million for gas and $40 million for oil.

Combat Training Seen as 'at Appropriate Level'

WS0112123794 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 29 Nov 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "At the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Belarus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Participants in an expanded session of the Defense Ministry Collegium thoroughly analyzed the results of combat training in the 1994 academic year, set primary tasks aimed at improving field and air training, scheduled events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the great victory over fascist invaders, and examined other issues.

The session was attended by A. Novikaw, chairman of the parliamentary Commission for Issues of National Security, Defense, and Combating Crime, and responsible workers from the Belarusian Presidential Administration and the Cabinet of Ministers.

The session began with a pleasant moment. Defense Minister Colonel General A. Kastenka announced new appointments. By virtue of a Belarusian presidential edict, Major Gen. Yu. Partnow was appointed the defense minister's adviser for issues of military policy. Maj. Gen. V. Patskow was appointed chief of the Defense Ministry Military Inspectorate. Maj. Gen. V. Haydukevich assumed the office of the 65th Army Corps deputy commander. Colonel V. Avlasenka was entrusted with command over the 120th Rohachew Guards' motorized rifle division. Col. A. Proskuryakow became commander of the 30th Irkutsk-Pinsk detached mechanized brigade.

Following this, Lieutenant Gen. L. Maltsew, first deputy defense minister and chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, summed up the results of the academic year.

"This year has not been easy," the minister emphasized. "The economic crisis has considerably affected the Army. Given the strict economy of material means, we have secured an appropriate level of combat readiness in units and combined units, training of staffs, and reform and improvement in major organizational and personnel structures. Despite significant difficulties, the tasks set by the defense minister for this year have been accomplished in full. This is the main result of our work."

Continuing, he thoroughly analyzed the combat and mobilization readiness of the Armed Forces, having emphasized one conceptual thought, which was later expounded by the defense minister:

"In terms of psychology, many of us have not yet fully become aware of the obvious fact that we are the armed forces of a sovereign state, and not the Belarusian Military District of the former USSR. It is time to forget those times, when our troops were receiving all essential material and technical supplies in a centralized manner from Moscow. The sociopolitical and economic situation has changed dramatically, and it requires new extraordinary approaches to the work of commanders and staffs."

Lt. Gen. L. Maltsew noted that the inactivity and passiveness of officers, particularly that of commanders, is inadmissible in this complex time, since it negatively affects the state of affairs in the Army. This relates, for instance, to the training of commanders. In many units it has been conducted formally, in an old manner, and as a result officers are losing their professionalism. Inefficient attention is still being attached to practical field exercises with equipment and weapons. A field training competition has revealed the poor training of officers from the 50th detached mechanized brigade and certain BKhVT's [expansion unknown].

Assessing the level of personnel training and the level of combat coordination of land combined units and units, Lt. Gen. L. Maltsew praised the 120th Rohachew Guards' motorized rifle division and the 30th Irkutsk-Pinsk detached mechanized brigade. The 6th detached mechanized brigade is lagging far behind in this regard.

During tactical training this past summer, particular emphasis was placed on coordination among combined units.

Company tactical exercises in combat shooting was the final stage of this year's training. Out of 73 company tactical exercises, as few as three of them received the highest marks and 49 exercises received positive marks, which represents 67 percent of the total number.

Live-fire training of troops, according to the general, was best demonstrated at a recent Army competition for the best motorized rifle and tank company. Out of five reviewed companies, two—from the 120th motorized rifle division and the 11th mechanized brigade—were assessed as unsatisfactory.

Speaking about training tank and armored personnel carrier mechanics and drivers, Lt. Gen. L. Maltsew noted that the most common shortcomings are poor skills of driving armored carriers at night and in conditions of limited visibility. It was explained that night trainings are seldom conducted in units (commanders' negligence regarding training plans and the notorious limits of fuel and lubricants also played a role here).

The chief of the General Staff attached focused attention on an analysis of troops' service and military discipline. He noted that from September to November the number of crimes was reduced, and the moral and psychological situation in the Army improved. However, there are still cases of dodging service, nonstatutory relations, alcoholism, etc.

The organization of service proved to be the best in the 120th Rohachew motorized rifle division, the Joint Training Center, and the artillery division. In this regard, there were essential grievances against the 30th detached mechanized brigade, as well as certain units of the Armed Forces and Antiaircraft Defense.

Participating in a discussion on the report were Lt. Gen. M. Stankevich, deputy defense minister for armaments, Maj. Gen. A. Khristaforaw, deputy defense minister for rear services and chief of the Armed Forces Rear Services, Lt. Gen. V. Kastenka, commander of the Antiaircraft Defense, and Lt. Gen. S. Sedow, commander of the Air Forces.

Following this, Maj. Gen. O. Yatskevich, deputy defense minister, reported on a schedule of events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the great victory, which was the second item on the collegium session agenda.

Col. V. Yakhnitski, deputy defense minister for construction and housing, reported on the problems and current status of the construction services, as well as the results of a recent inventory of the Armed Forces' housing resources.

The defense minister summed up the collegium session and set goals for the new 1995 academic year.

Kastenka on Military Funding, Reductions

LD3011135794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1313 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gulevich]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk November 30 TASS—The Belarus armed forces will not have enough money next year for the planned reductions, especially for dismantling some types of armaments and the construction of housing for demobilised officers, as well as for mustering-out payments, etc.

This conclusion was made by the parliamentary commission for national defence and anti-crime measures, which recently discussed the republic's draft budget for 1995.

The money, allocated from the state budget for the Belarus Army, is enough only to pay the army personnel and to satisfy the daily needs of the officers and men. No money will be left after that to service the army's up-to-date weaponry, to carry out repair and maintenance jobs. There will also be no money to buy spare parts.

BELINFORM has learned that the Belarus Defence Ministry was asking the initial sum to be doubled. However there is no such money in the Belarus treasury.

The only way out of the predicament, Defence Minister Anatol Kastenka believes, is to further reform the armed forces. This requires a scientifically corroborated strategy for the Army's development, which should be closely linked with the state's external policy and its economic potential. This work, Kastenka said, has already been started. The Army will live normally next year in spite of the current minimum financing.

NPT, START Implicate Belarus

WS3011151594 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1200 GMT 29 Nov 94

[Article by Mikhail Malko from the "Analysis, Commentaries, Forecasts" feature No. 7, 22-28 Nov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Lisbon on May 23, 1992, the United States signed a protocol of the Treaty on the

Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START) with Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine—the countries where the strategic nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union were stationed. The protocol makes the four states parties of the START Treaty and commits them to reduce strategic nuclear weapons within the 7-year period, as is stipulated by the treaty. On 4 February, 1993, the Belarusian Supreme Soviet ratified the START Treaty and voted to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a nonnuclear state. On October 30, 1992, Belarus signed the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE) reducing and limiting the number key categories of military equipment, such as tanks, artillery, armored combat vehicles, combat aircraft, and combat helicopters, and providing for destruction of weaponry exceeding those limits.

Those steps of the new independent state are of great importance given the transformation of Belarus into a subject of international law. This conclusion follows Article 1 of the Lisbon Protocol, which reads: "The Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, and Ukraine, which are successors of the former Soviet Union, as stipulated by the START Treaty, assume commitments of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics under the Treaty." According to this, any attempt by a CIS member state to declare itself the only legal successor of the Soviet Union is at least unfounded. Unfortunately, the legal culture of some countries is such that in their foreign political activities, they try to be guided not by the letter and spirit of the international law, but by their military and economic interests. As is generally known, when ratifying the START and NPT Treaties, the Belarusian Supreme Soviet did not even raise the issue of providing economic aid to Belarus by the international community, which would ensure national security guarantees in the event the country's sovereignty is jeopardized.

Failure to take into account both domestic and foreign political aspects is a serious mistake made by the Belarusian lawmakers, which negatively affected the position of our country. Belarus incurred huge losses scrapping military equipment. Also substantial are the losses inflicted on the Republic by removing the nuclear weapons from its territory without any compensation from Russia. Undoubtedly, this mistake was caused to a considerable degree by lack of necessary political experience, as well as awareness of the catastrophic consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. When it came to discussing the possibility of ratifying the START and NPT treaties, it became clear that even such an economically developed country as the Soviet Union was practically unable to liquidate the consequences of the accident all by itself. Awareness of this circumstance led to the conclusion that the possession of nuclear weapons poses a serious potential danger to any country—even if it received certain security guarantees.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty loses its validity in 1995. It is a vital interest of the international community to prolong it for a certain period or reshape it into a permanent treaty. An international conference will take place in Geneva next year specifically devoted to this matter. I hope that its participants will manage to adopt proper decisions, living to expectations of all people of good will. Great contribution to this will be made by our country, which, subjected to a mass attack against its sovereignty and independence by influential representatives of the Russian Government and a number of Russian influential politicians, voluntarily gave up the most efficient and cheap means of repulsing foreign aggression. I hope that this step of Belarus will affect the position of countries refusing to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and considering the non-proliferation policy to be discriminative. In the first place, those countries Iraq, North Korea, India, Pakistan, Israel, and some others that refuse to join in the NPT because of their evident and concealed desire to create their own arsenals of nuclear weapons.

In addition to the NPT's discriminative character, the opponents of the treaty explain their negative attitude toward it by its insufficient effectiveness and the failure of the nuclear states to fulfill their commitments to reduce their nuclear arsenals. Such criticism is quite founded. Indeed, the treaty is discriminative in nature, because it divides countries into those having and not having the right to possess nuclear weapons. In accordance with Article 3, paragraph 9 of the Treaty, the so-called nuclear countries include the countries that created and tested nuclear weapons before January 1, 1967, such as the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, France, and China.

Criticism of the treaty and the whole regime of nonproliferation as insufficiently effective is only justified. For instance, while there used to be only five nuclear powers in the past, their number doubled in late 1980's. Nuclear weapons were created by South Africa, India, Israel, probably, Pakistan and North Korea. Considerable advancement in the creation of nuclear weapons was made by Iraq in early 1990's. This unpleasant tendency in the sphere of nuclear non-proliferation was largely caused by the nuclear states themselves. There is no doubt that the ability of North Korea to create nuclear weapons was based on the assistance provided by the Soviet Union for nuclear researches. The USSR also used to send substantial aid to China. It should be noted that South Africa, Israel, and Iraq, which have nuclear weapons or are working to create them, closely cooperated with France in the field of nuclear power engineering. The same thing can be said about atomic programs of India, Pakistan and some other countries.

Nevertheless, one can draw the indisputable conclusion that the NPT and the whole international regime of non-proliferation considerably impeded the process of horizontal spread of nuclear weapons. This is why the international community should make every effort to strengthen and intensify it. This requires immense efforts on the part of both nonnuclear and nuclear countries. Failure of the international regime of nonproliferation may lead to the uncontrolled spread of nuclear arms. At present, there are a number of countries almost capable of creating their own nuclear arsenals. For instance, Japan and Germany have developed modern technologies of processing used nuclear fuel and uranium concentration enabling them to create their own nuclear weapons within a short period of time. Such countries also include Italy, Spain, Sweden, and Canada. The above circumstance makes intentions of Iraq and North Korea of developing their nuclear arms extremely dangerous. The activities of these countries will, in turn, prompt neighboring states to work on their nuclear arsenals.

To avoid this, the nuclear powers must do the following: ban nuclear tests; abandon the creation of new and more advanced mass destruction weapons; reduce the present arsenals; withdraw all nuclear arms from foreign countries; and conclude a treaty entirely eliminating nuclear weapons. In addition, the nuclear states must give the nonnuclear states guarantees regarding their national security. These demands, as is generally known, were presented by Ukraine as its conditions of joining the NPT ratified by the Ukrainian parliament on November 16, 1994. I am sure that Belarus has every right to receive such guarantees, as well as to receive efficient economic aid from the international community, particularly that it voluntarily gave up its nuclear arsenal.

Moldova

Security Official on Romanian Relations

AU0112092494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1809 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 29/11/1994—The spokesman of the Security Ministry (MSN), asked by BASAPRESS to comment on the recent declarations by deputy of the National Romanian Unity Party (PUNR), Vasile Matei, said that the accusations brought against the Ministry of National Security are unfounded. PUNR deputy Vasile Matei, member of the parliamentary commission for overseeing the Romanian Information Service (SRI) stated to a news agency in Bucharest that "a cold war is being fought against Romania in which Russian, Moldovan, Ukrainians and Hungarian espionage activities play an important role." MSN spokesman, Valentin Dulce told BASAPRESS that "probably there exist some activities undertaken by the MSN as adequate reactions to the Romanian party's activities." Also Dulce said that MSN, despite Matei's statements, does not report to Moscow but is a completely new institution. "There exist only some collaboration agreements between Russia and Ukraine regarding the counteraction of traffic activities. In 1991 we initiated the signing of a contract with SRI but the delaying of the agreement is not our fault," said Dulce pointing out that after SRI head Magureanu's visit the drafts were suspended. At the same time, Dulce gauged that the declarations of the kind made by deputy Vasile Matei pushes the signing of the agreement much far ahead. "One of the goals pursued by Matei may be the creation of a good image for SRI, on one hand, including the obtaining of new funds. We can say that the SRI violates the Moldovans' national unity. We were not the ones who declared that special services will be ahead of political events. Magureanu was," said Dulce. Asked if the liquidation of frontiers and uniting Moldova with Romania is one of the SRI goals, Dulce said that this very fact "can be inferred from the Romanian officials' declarations." Referring to the MSN zones of interest in Romania, Dulce said that MSN is primarily interested in the future political evolutions. "We have to keep up with the economic evolutions too, to offer certain guarantees to firms that conclude contracts with those from Romania. The same goes for political activities: when an agreement or a protocol of intentions is signed we have to know who signs it, what are his motives, etc. Matei's declarations will lead to further cooling of relations with Romania," said Dulce. Additionally, Dulce said that Tiraspol secret services, having part of the former KGB files, tries to recruit including by blackmail MSN employees.

PSM Believes Economic Policy Needs Changes

AU3011192994 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1920 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 29/11/1994—The parliamentary Socialist Unity [US] faction believes the present government's economic policy fails to meet the interests of a majority of population.

Speaking at today's news conference, the co-chairman of the Socialist Party of Moldova (PSM), Valeriu Senic, said Moldova was suffering a "social Darwinism course": Each survives how he can.

Another co-chairman, Victor Morev, said the leu stability was maintained thank to 400 million lei worth salary arrears and 200 million worth pension arrears. A decline in production and breakdown of crucial economy sectors are going on, which proves that the national currency introduction failed to achieve positive results in the national economy, he stressed.

He compared the draft budget, passed at the first reading, with a "thermometer" showing the state of the economy. The faction hopes that at the second reading the draft will be substantially amended. The faction has strong doubts about both the venues and the expenditures sections of the budget, for very many articles in it seem unrealistic. This implies, in particular, the 120 million lei worth of anticipated incomes of the National Bank, and the 250 million lei worth of privatization incomes for which purpose the government suggests to switch from patrimonial bonds over to money in privatization. Social measures are drafted to consume 1 billion lei, including 600 million intended for local budgets. At the same time, a greater part of payments will be effected not to local budget, but to the central budget.

The draft does not envisage wages and pension increase. At present, communal charges and food expenses amount to 220-250 lei a month, while the average monthly salary is twice smaller, the faction leader said.

The co-chairman of the Socialist Party, Valeriu Senic, also stated the oncoming local elections are to involve a powerful bloc of left-wing forces, which might include, besides the Socialist Party and the Unity Movement, the Communist Party and, possibly, some other organizations.

Speaking at today's news conference, Senic informed that the PSM would held its 2d congress on December 3, at which the party will adopt its programme and discuss the socio-political situation after the February 1994 parliamentary elections and before the forthcoming local elections.

Last week, the Socialist Unity faction voted against passing the law on local self-government at the first reading. According to Peter Shornikov, chairman of the Unity Movement, the law contradicts to Articles 109, 112, 113 of the Constitution. Article 5 of the law envisages appointment of area executive chairmen and locality mayors by presidential decrees, and Article 130 allows for dismissal of local power bodies, which is not stipulated by the Constitution.

The Socialist Unity Faction spokesmen said they respected the stance of the Communist Party, whose chairman had stated the communists were ready to boycott the local elections in case the law is finally adopted in its present shape. "But we stand up not for the boycott of the election, but for bringing the law into line with the Constitution," said Valentin Krylov, co-Chairman of the faction.

Leu Devalues 10 Percent, IMF Policy Followed

AU3011153494 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1920 GMT 29 Nov 94

["Commentary": "Moldovan Leu Devalued by Only 10 Percent During First Year of Existence"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 29/11/1994—Since its introduction date (November 29, 1993), the Moldovan leu has devalued by only 10 percent to the U.S. dollar.

"The forecasts of many, who said the leu would share the poor fate of the currency units in other former Soviet republics, have not come true," Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said to INFOTAG.

In his words, the leu introduction was undertaken at the time far from favourable for the Republic. During 1993, prices in Moldova have grown 17.6-fold, and the exchange rate of the then Moldovan coupon to the U.S. dollar 9.6-fold.

"The Moldovan leu of today is one of the most stable currency units throughout the former Soviet Union. And the annual rate of inflation was lowered from 2000 percent in 1993 to 100 percent in 1994," Snegur said.

Last year, the average monthly rate of inflation was 32 percent, while in the first 10 months of this year the figure was 6.8 percent, and in October 4.2 percent.

In the president's opinion, the huge salary arrears (106 million lei, or $25 million), and non-payments between economic agents (1.2 million lei) are not the National Bank's fault. This problem should be solved by means of expanding the production volumes and by more money arriving at enterprises' accounts, and not by additional monetary emission.

The emission is urged upon by those who believe that the leu is too restricted, and that its modern exchange rate is unrealistic. For the principal argument, the advocates refer to the huge salary arrears and internal non-payments. "If the money was paid to the population promptly, the money stock in circulation would be much greater, and goods in shops—much more accessible to people," claim the supporters of a moderate inflation viewpoint. And the moderate inflation, in their opinion, can keep industrial enterprises afloat and prevent scientific and production collectives from breaking up.

The advocates of a tough monetary and credit policy—headed by its author and chief conductor Leonid Talmaci, president of the National Bank—reply with a good deal of sense that the money stock corresponds to the volumes of commodities and services being offered to the population.

As for the huge volumes of ready products in the stores of enterprises, the goods fail to be sold due to their exceedingly high prices and poor quality, rather than due to the money shortage with the buyers.

Leonid Talmaci is sick and tired repeating to industrialists that it is much more profitable to rapidly sell produce and thus to speed up the turnover of capital, rather than to keep goods in stores waiting till luckier times when higher prices could be offered.

INFOTAG was told in the National Bank that the money stock as on October 1 was equal to 647.4 million lei. Since the beginning of the year, it grew up by 398 million (85.4 percent).

The leu stability was attained largely owing to the technical and financial assistance of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, Mircea Snegur said.

The resident representative of the IMF in Moldova, Linge Nielsen, said to INFOTAG that the overall assistance granted by the IMF to Moldova to stabilize the national currency will exceed $150 million.

The IMF and the World Bank gave the money to back payments balance, to reduce budget deficit, and to create hard-currency reserves in the National Bank of Moldova, which has eventually influenced the leu exchange rate substantially.

On the eastern side of the Dniester River, where the Dniester Moldovan Republic was declared on September 2, 1990, the Moldovan leu is not used as an official monetary unit. After Chisinau introduced the leu last year, Dniester kept on using the old Soviet rubles of 1961-1992. This past August, Tiraspol launched the region's own coupons printed in Russia.

At that moment, the coupon-dollar exchange rate was 1 to 258. At present, it is 1 to 1,200.

Inflation in Dniester, like the budget of the self-styled republic, are a state secret. According to local observers, the monthly rate of inflation there is 40 percent.

Unlike Dniester, Moldova has agreed with the IMF and the World Bank upon conducting a strict monetary and credit policy, which envisages the maximum permissible size of overall monetary stock and reserves.

Should a necessity arise to grant credits at preferential interest rates, the document recommends to the government to finance them at the expense of budget revenues. As for the overall budget deficit, it is to be financed exclusively by non-bank and external sources.

The document strictly obliges the National Bank to closely control the limits of the nation's external indebtedness. The volume of received or promised loans and credits (with a repayment term of 1 to 12 years) in the period of September 30, 1993 to December 31, 1994 should not exceed $200 million, including $70 million with a repayment term of one to five years.

Cabinet Establishes Industrial Policy Board

AU3011133794 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1920 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 29/11/1994—The Moldovan Government passed a decree on setting up the Coordination Board for Industrial Policy, the Ministry of Industry has reported.

The Board is called upon to work out measures of state support of industry, to be implemented jointly by banking structures, enterprises, and scientific centres.

Deputy Prime Minister Ion Gutu was appointed chairman of the Board, and Industry Minister Grigore Triboi and Deputy Minister of Agriculture Constantin Olaru—his deputies.

The Board consists of 23 members, including the directors of Dniester's largest industrial enterprises—the Metallurgical Works in Ribnita, Moldavisolit company of Tiraspol, and Electrofarfor of Bender.

The Board's charter reads that one of its essential tasks is to analyze and sum up industry-related information with a view to prepare regulatory enactments in the sphere of industrial reforms.

Kondratyev Orders Army Staff To Continue Duties

AU3011192894 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1900 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 28/11/1994—The Russian deputy defence minister, Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, called the 14th Army staff to proceed with their regular duties in Dniester, without paying much attention to the withdrawal agreement.

"Forget the agreement. It is signed, but there is no withdrawal mechanism so far. Therefore, the servicemen should continue their scheduled military training," Kondratyev said to the personnel at the end of his visit to Moldova and Dniester.

As INFOTAG came to know from well-informed sources in the United Control Commission, during the visit the Moldovan leadership gave their principal consent that a part of the 14th Army servicemen fill the vacancies in the peace keeping contingent after Russia had unilaterally decided to reduce its peace keeping forces in the region.

The above sources said that in case the servicemen shift to the contingent, they shall come under the command of the United Control Commission, and this has to be okayed by all the sides in the commission. Dniester is likely to object to this, which means the shift will be blocked.

The idea to replenishing the contingent with the 14th Army staff was rejected by the deputy chairman of the Moldovan Parliament, Nicolae Andronic, too. He has stated to INFOTAG that the Moldovan leadership is resolutely against the shift, because "in case the army staff become peacekeepers, the withdrawal agreement will be not implemented within the envisaged three years."

EBRD Grants Credit for Danube Oil Terminal

AU3011151794 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1920 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 29/11/1994—"The oil terminal to be built in Jurjulesti (on the Danube river) will allow to handle 1.2 million tonnes of crude oil a year," the director general of the State Fuel Association, Nikolai Cherny, stated. At present, appropriate documentation for the construction of the 110,000 tonnes capacity terminal has been prepared.

This up-to-date facility will allow Moldova to receive oil, by sea and river, from the Arab world, the Mediterranean sea region, as well as from Russia and the Ukraine.

The construction of the terminal has a principal economic and strategic importance for Moldova, for the republic "will cease being dependent on a solitary source of energy supply," Cherny stressed.

The construction is due to be started in early 1995, and by the end of the same year the facility will be able to receive oil already.

According to Cherny, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] is ready to grant a credit for the construction. However, he did not name the exact size of it. At the present stage it is known that the State Fuel Association shall act as a general contractor of the construction, and technical works are to be performed by a Greek company.

In early 1992, Moldova first announced its wish to build a port in the southern locality of Jurjulesti. The then government of Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi named a figure of $40 million necessary for the purpose. Experts claimed that the factory would fully recoup the expenditures during six years.

In the end of 1992, Moldova was planning to receive a EBRD credit and to announce a tender to select potential foreign performers. However, at present there are no talks about the port construction, with everybody speaking only about the essential problem of oil delivery by not only railroad, but by the river-sea channel as well.

Kyrgyzstan

CSCE Observers' Report Criticizes Unfair Elections

LD3011134894 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1000 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A report from international observers has come in to the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The observers worked during the referendum and the elections to the local councils in our republic. The report was prepared by Counsellor Dzaak Rusilide of the Warsaw Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. He noted that the elections and the referendum were held in accordance with the rules and practices inherited from former Soviet times. In addition, it was stated that members of opposition parties had not been given equal opportunities to use technical and administrative resources and the media during the election campaign.

Akayev Appoints New Presidential Staff Official

LD3011131694 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Under a decree issued by the president of the Kyrgyz Republic, (Tashkul Dzhanizakovich Kareksizov) is appointed as administrative affairs director in the presidential administration and in the government apparatus of the Kyrgyz Republic.

[signed] Askar Akayev, president of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Akayev Views Reform, Democracy, Opposition

LD0112114594 Bishkek SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA in Russian 23 Nov 94 p 1

[Speech by Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev at a meeting of heads of local government on 19 November; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear friends and colleagues!

It is not by chance that my address to you contains these two words: friends and colleagues. I have every reason to consider you my friends. I regard you with sincere respect and sympathy. In this very hard time for our country, you have shown courage and resolution in taking on a very heavy burden of responsibility to your family, relatives, neighbors, and all the members of your local community. This alone must arouse feelings of friendship for you. Since you and I have been called upon to do the same job—jointly, shoulder to shoulder, and with a popular mandate—I have every reason to call you my collegues.

I heartily greet you heads of local government at the primary, grassroots level; and you heads of all the republic's local communities, I congratulate you on the results of the elections and sincerely wish you luck and success in that difficult and responsible work to which you have decided to devote the next few years of your lives. [passage omitted]

I have already had occasion to say that there are two problems that are particular cause for concern in the run-up to the Supreme Council elections: guaranteeing fair ethnic representation and fair representation of women. I have every reason to be alarmed on that score. Look at what has happened in the Supreme Council. The ethnic minority representatives have been leaving it for various reasons. And no one in the parliament of multiethnic Kyrgyzstan, not even the communist internationalists, has been alarmed by the grave distortion of ethnic representation. Yet the situation that has taken shape in parliament over the last year has literally been a challenge to the dignity of the ethnic minorities. [passage omitted]

The current state of the economy in Kyrgyzstan is such that without assistance from outside, without credits, without strong foreign investments, our public production sector will not start working. Developing countries that are considerably richer than our country acquired a good and timely understanding of the need to attract foreign investments vigorously. Some of the CIS countries approached this matter prudently—they sold off entire production complexes at sufficiently high prices. Now they will receive large revenues in the form of taxes from the new owners. And then there is the cost of creating the numerous workplaces that will be taken by local personnel. In addition, a ramified municipal and social infrastructure is set up: roads and other communications, homes, schools, hospitals and so on. Of course nothing is for nothing, but in these cases there is clear mutual benefit.

Here in Kyrgyzstan the foreign economic profile is somewhat different; we have nothing to boast about. The energy of certain political forces is spent on destruction rather than creation. These forces are quite skillfully and successfully slowing the influx of funds from abroad by employing the slogan that the republican leadership is selling off the country. As a result, last year we lost millions of dollars from actual investors and much more from potential investors.

In democratic Kyrgyzstan everyone should have the right to express his own opinion irrespective of what lies behind that opinion. Therefore, within the framework of the democratic process no one has sought to prevent the opposition from fighting against foreign investors and scaring them off with the help of the free press. Let us, too, resort to democracy and take advantage of the same democratic opportunities. Here I am relying on you to actively support the republican leadership's policy, which is to channel investment facilities into your territories for the benefit of your communities, so that we have first-class equipment and advanced technology. I think that such an alliance could produce great positive results in the near future. [passage omitted]

Agrarian and land reform are the most important economic problem in terms of its state and national significance for Kyrgyzstan, both now and in the future. This topic is raised frequently, and I do not think there is any need to repeat truths that are now widely known and that even set some people's teeth on edge. I must, however, speak about one aspect of this problem in view of the special importance of local government in tackling it. We are talking about private ownership of land.

It is generally known that the land issue is the "question of all questions." It is no less important than the issue of power. Its significance is not only economic; it is also of great social and ultimately political significance. The land question is a prerequisite for solving a wide range of very diverse tasks set by life today. As far as land and agrarian reform is concerned, in my opinion it will have no success in the near future unless the private land ownership issue is resolved. In general, I think that without the institution of private land ownership, economic management methods will be unlikely to succeed in replacing administrative ones.

In the 70 years of Soviet power we were able to assure ourselves pretty definitely that success cannot be achieved in the villages by issuing orders and commands. And that was a time when the peremptory style of management came from a powerful state and was carried out by a huge party organization armed with numerous methods of sanction. How can we now, in today's conditions, count on administrative methods producing success in the agrarian sector?

We must view the alternatives clearly: either we have private ownership of land or we return to the methods of the totalitarian state. The latter option seems to me to be no longer practicable. Yet we are not tackling the private land ownership issue! So we find ourselves at a crossroads. The majority of CIS countries are in the same position, but that does not make it any easier for us.

That is my position, which I took up long ago. At the same time, I treat my opponents' arguments with understanding and respect. Above all, I share their apprehensions that private land ownership might end up with land being sold off on the side and with various kinds of mercenary machinations involving land. Such concern and anxiety is quite natural for a people with a colonial past. That is why our lawyers are working hard to develop a system of defensive mechanisms to prevent vital public interests in land from being violated on a local community, regional, and national levels. [passage omitted]

It is currently hard for almost everyone, most of the population, to live, but it is incomparably harder for pensioners, families with many children and other groups of citizens in need, who are, unfortunately, numerous. What our state can give the people at the moment does not meet their most basic needs, and yet we cannot give them any more. That is our common pain, a pain felt by every honest man. I am convinced that local communities could render tangible assistance with this.

The experience of neighboring Uzbekistan confirms my opinion. On President Islam Karimov's initiative, special funds have been set up to render financial aid to families in need. They operate under the local government organizations in the villages, other settlements, and local wards. The sources of finance are funds from the republican and local budgets, as well as extra-budgetary sources, including public and charity funds, the funds of enterprises and farms, and voluntary donations from citizens.

The financial aid to families in need granted out of these special funds is granted by a decision taken by citizens' representatives in the settlement, village, local ward, street, and even housing block. Openness, transparency, and social justice are clearly guaranteed under such a system for rendering financial aid. I think we could make full use of the practice in our neighboring republic. [passage omitted]

There is another thing I would like to talk about. Lately I have been hearing many charges directed against the state authority, and specifically me personally, to the effect that an offensive is being waged against the democratic gains that have been achieved in the republic: that we have organized "a campaign against democracy." This is an absurd and senseless accusation. There is neither a campaign nor an offensive. Yet it is really true that for a variety of objective and subjective reasons, which are both our fault and the opposition's, democracy is losing its attraction for people and the sympathy they have for it!

I am convinced that well-developed and strong local government is one of the principal ways of restoring the authority of the democratic institutions of Kyrgyzstan. It is here, in the local community environment, that the beautiful song of our modern history will be carefully written and sung at the top of our voices.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Discusses Trade Ties With Counterparts

LD3011104194 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian 0200 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Saparmurad Turkmenbashy [Niyazov], president of Turkmenistan, talked to Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Armenian President Leon Ter-Petrosyan, and Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze [title as heard] on the phone today.

In the process of the talks [word indistinct] development of trade and economic relations in 1995 were discussed. It was decided to establish working groups. These groups will work out relevant draft interstate contracts. They also discussed the question of supplying Ukraine and the Transcaucasian republics with natural gas.

The heads of the states pointed out that they were ready to develop the useful cooperation for the benefit of their people.

Interviewed on East Europe Tour

MM3011151594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Nov 94 First Edition p 6

[Interview with Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov by Lyudmila Glazovskaya; place and date not given: "We Are Open to All"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Glazovskaya] Saparmurad Atayevich, you recently went to Austria, Romania, and Slovakia. The media in these countries highlighted your words to the effect that while organizing bilateral relations with European states, Turkmenistan will never impinge on the interests of third countries, above all Russia. What causes you to emphasize this point? Can it be seen as a new element in your "open doors" policy, created by virtue of the new political circumstances, or is it a logical step arising out of all your previous actions in the foreign policy arena?

[Niyazov] Our main principle in foreign policy is openness, noninterference, and mutually advantageous bilateral partnership with all states without exception. We place no dividing line between the Asian and European areas of our policy, as we may appear to do to some people at first glance. Our policy is still being shaped and three years of independence is too short a period for visible results to have emerged. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that Turkmenistan, as a new independent state, has been given a unique opportunity to reorganize itself by peaceful means. Can we spurn this opportunity, when we are aware of Turkmenistan's political and economic status as a state at the crossroads between Europe and Asia, one possessing a great fuel and energy potential? Any false step might lead us away from peace, therefore, when we signed the Helsinki agreement in Vienna two years ago, we committed ourselves to being a neutral country, open to any mutually advantageous partnership.

"While I was in Vienna, Bucharest, and Bratislava, having toured a number of Asian countries not long before that, I saw for myself how much the new historical situation had changed the political map of the world. I am not talking about trouble spots—I regard them as an exception to the general process of countries' movement toward one another. But I have no doubt that the world is moving in this way. It is the task, however, of politicians who have taken responsibility for the future of the world and of the peoples to regulate this movement, to create rules for it. What role does Turkmenistan allot to itself in this process? That which is dictated by its geopolitical position and status as a neutral state. Economic interests, primarily of the European countries, cut off from energy and other raw material sources, make it necessary for them to enter into partnership with Turkmenistan, whose gas reserves are estimated to run into trillions of cubic meters. It is appropriate to mention here the impressive reserves of chemical raw materials, representing the entire table of elements, and also the earth's as yet unexplored "iron belt," which goes from Iran to the Urals, passing through Turkmenistan.

Azerbaijan

Gasanov Confers With Ambassadors on CSCE Karabakh Talks

NC3011185794 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Republic's foreign minister, Gasan Gasanov, today received (Konenko), the Russian charge d'affaires ad interim in Azerbaijan, U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan Richard Kauzlarich, and the EU representative in Baku (Schmunk), the German charge d'affaires ad interim, and (Fox), the second secretary at the British Embassy.

Views were exchanged on matters of concern to Azerbaijan during the upcoming meeting of heads of state of CSCE countries in Budapest. Attention was primarily focused on the formation of CSCE peacekeeping forces. Gasan Gasanov noted the urgency for speedy formation of these forces and for the CSCE to adopt a principled position.

During the meeting it became clear that the positions of the EU and Azerbaijan basically coincide in regard to the Budapest meeting.

Official Says Aliyev Ready for 'Dialogue' on Conflict

NC3011182494 Baku TURAN in English 1532 GMT 30 Nov 94

["It Looks Like Yeltsin Does Not Know Himself What He Wants From Aliyev and Ter-Petrosian"—TURAN headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, November 30 (TURAN)-—"Armenia agreed to participate at the meeting of the presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia which is to be held in Moscow. Now we are waiting for Baku's answer," Russian president's special representative for Nagorno-Karabakh Vladimir Kazimirov told TURAN's correspondent.

According to Kazimirov, the main purpose of the forthcoming meeting is to look for and to find the most acceptable options of political settlement of Armenian-Azeri conflict and the problem of Shusha and Lachin.

At the same time a high-ranking employee of the Azerbaijan's president's office told TURAN that "it is meaningless to go to Moscow only to talk. Azerbaijan is ready for dialogue and it must have the results. Armenia and Moscow should understand that without returning of Shusha and Lachin there will not be firm and long-term peace in the region."

On the eve, the Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan stated once again that "there is not a problem of Shusha and Lachin for Armenia, the problem exists only for Azerbaijan. According to him, if Lachin will be under the control of Azerbaijan, that will mean the loss of Nagorno-Karabakh. Concerning Shusha he said that it is the prerogative of the people of Karabakh. Papazyan noted that the meeting of the presidents will have any results only if the leader of Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenians Robert Kocharian takes part at the meeting.

It is clear, that Baku will not accept terms of Armenia and that is why the parties will not make concessions to each other.

The persistence of Moscow in the arrange the meeting of the presidents on the eve of summit meeting of the countries-heads of the CSCE is an attempt to keep both countries under Russia's influence. Even if the meeting of three presidents takes place, it will not have any results. But Russian Foreign Ministry will once more announce about its nex [item incomplete as received]

Georgia

Gudauta's 'Aggressive Separatism' Protested

AU0112111794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 30 Nov 94

[Statement by Tamaz Nadareishvili, deputy prime minister and Abkhazian Autonomous Republic Supreme Council first deputy chairman; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] On behalf of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic Supreme Council deputies, Tamaz Nadareishvili, Republic of Georgia deputy prime minister, Abkhazian Autonomous Republic Supreme Council first deputy chairman, delivered a statement in which it states:

Against the background of the conducting of a peaceful course by the Georgian authorities in the process of settling the Abkhazian conflict, Abkhazian separatists [words indistinct] adopted [words indistinct] It is significant that 23 (?of the 35) Abkhazian Autonomous Republic Supreme Council deputies (?have been banished for over a year now) and naturally are not participating in the work of the (?sessions) [words indistinct] empowered (?to make changes to) the Constitution and the law only in the presence of three- quarters of the deputies. In spite of this, on 26 November of this year, an emergency session of the so-called Abkhazian Supreme Council adopted a new constitution on whose basis Abkhazia [words indistinct] contradicts international law [words indistinct]. On behalf of 300,000 refugees we, deputies of different nationalities of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic Supreme Council elected by means of universal popular elections, (?severely protest) against the adoption of this decision that is not only illegal, but also lacking all logic. We appeal to (?progressive) world public opinion, the United Nations, CIS, and Russian Federation leaders that are (?guarantors) of a settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict to give an appropriate assessment of the decision taken by the Gudauta separatists that is aimed at wrecking the peace process and not to permit the precedent of the victory of aggressive separatism, which creates a danger not only for the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia and stability in the Caucasus region, but also for the peaceful coexistence of peoples in the world.

You have been listening to a statement made by Tamaz Nadareishvili, Republic of Georgia deputy prime minister, Abkhazian Autonomous Republic Supreme Council first deputy chairman, on behalf of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic Supreme Council deputies.

Moves Afoot To Oust Pro-Russian Defense Minister

MM0112113994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Vitaliy Denisov: "First Stone Thrown at 'Too Russian General.' Georgian Defense Minister Accused of Cadre Mistakes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi—"Neither the Ministry of Defense nor the security service of Georgia is doing anything to make Abkhazia a part of Georgia"—this statement was issued recently by Vice Premier Tamaz Nadareishvili.

He accused Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze, minister of defense, of cadre mistakes which resulted in the dismissal of officers and generals with experience of the war in Abkhazia. The vice premier described their replacements as cowards who sat out difficult days for the country in warm armchairs far from the front line.

The Ministry of Defense has issued a counterstatement in which it spoke out against strong-arm methods of resolving the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. The charge relating to unsubstantiated cadre reshuffles was also rejected. People who went through the war in Abkhazia have also remained in leading posts. For example, Major General Guram Nikolaishvili, first deputy minister of defense, and Maj. Gen. Nodar Tatarashvili, chief of general staff. The problem of training professional cadres is being resolved—this year 40 Georgian officers were sent to study at Russian military higher educational institutions.

The statement also speaks of what has been done over the past six months alone: Structural changes have been made, the strength of the Armed Forces has been determined (approximately 20,000 men), more than 10 illegal armed formations have been disbanded, tough control has been established over weapons and combat hardware, and discipline and order in units and subunits have been strengthened appreciably.

Did the vice premier know of all this? He cannot fail to have known, because until recently he was in charge of all the power departments in the republic's Cabinet of Ministers. He was debarred from tackling security questions at the request of... the minister of defense, who proved to Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze and Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia the civilian [tsivilnyy] general's inability to resolve the army's problems or, to put it more simply, his complete incompetence. But not even this served as the grounds for such determined attacks on the defense department's leadership by Tamaz Nadareishvili. Many of the powers that be dislike, above all, Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze, who, according to one Georgian parliamentarian, is a "too Russian general." According to some opinions, the vice premier's statements are only a touchstone before the start of a large-scale campaign to discredit him.

Shevardnadze, Niyazov To Discuss Gas Supplies Issue

LD3011195294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755 GMT 30 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Pokrovskiy; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Head of state Eduard Shevardnadze will pay a working visit to Ashgabat on December 2 for talks with Turkmenian President Saparmurad Niyazov on resumption of gas supplies to Georgia, officials in Shevardnadze's press center told Interfax.

The supplies to Georgia and Armenia were cut on November 11, officially because of a gas pipeline rupture in Uzbekistan. Another explanation is that Uzbekistan turned off the line to press its demand for payment of $250 for transit of every 1000 cubic meters of gas rather than $150 as before.

A Georgian team headed by Deputy Prime Minister Zurab Kervalishvili has been staying in Ashgabat since Tuesday to negotiate deferment of payment of the Georgian debt totaling, by official accounts, $500 million for the Turkmenian gas.

The Georgian team also plans to visit Tashkent to discuss the payment for the transit of Turkmenian gas across Uzbekistan.

Shevardnadze emphasized in a recent radio interview that he would go to Ashgabat "if the circumstances demand." He said that the Uzbek president had promised to have the pipeline rupture mended soon. Shevardnadze also intended to send a letter Monday to the Russian President Boris Yeltsin asking him to step up gas supplies to Georgia temporarily. IF Note: Meanwhile, Georgia has had no gas for 19 days. An interfax correspondent reports that while energy is supplied to the flats more or less regularly in Tbilisi, this is not the case just outside the capital. Certain populated areas have not had bread or energy for three weeks. What alarms people more than anything else is that the outlook for resumption of gas supplies is uncertain.

Shevardnadze Attacks Gas Department During Cabinet Meeting

LD3011174894 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1550 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA) [no dateline as received]—An extended session of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers was held today. Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze participated in the session. Discussions over the issue of revenues into the republic's budget in the fourth quarter of this year were followed by heated debates. Davit Saralidze, the chairman of Tax Inspection, addressed the meeting. He noted that insufficient revenues from state and private organizations and firms reached the state budget, and added that there were different reasons for that. For example, the Georgian patriarchate has been exempted from tax. However, Saralidze stressed, various commercial structures existed at the patriarchate and taking advantage of that, and carrying out various operations, they did not pay taxes either to the state or the patriarchate. Saralidze suggested the clauses whereby some structures were exempted from tax be reviewed; and tax dodgers be punished.

In his address on the above issue, Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze noted that it was necessary to set up a permanently functioning commission that would study the above issues.

Touching on the problem of power shortage, Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze said that he was not satisfied with the performance of the leadership of the Gruzgaz [Georgian gas] Department, and stressed that he was forced to personally visit Turkmenistan and ask its president to postpone the repayment deadline of the gas debt by Georgia and resume gas supplies to Georgia. It cannot go on like this, Shevardnadze said, debts must be repaid.

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